

REPORTS
OF THE *The Secretary*
INSPECTORS OF FACTORIES

TO
Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State
for the Home Department,

FOR THE
HALF YEAR ENDING 31ST OCTOBER 1863.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.



LONDON:


PRINTED BY GEORGE E. EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1864.

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REPORTS

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE SIR GEORGE GREY, BART.

Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department.

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SIR,

We have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servants,

ALEX^R REDGRAVE.

ROBERT BAKER.

*The Right Hon.
The Secretary of State
for the Home Department,
&c. &c. &c.*

APPENDIX No. 1.

GENERAL ABSTRACT, showing the Total Number of Accidents reported to the Inspectors of Factories during the Six Months ended the 31st October 1863.

TABLE No. I.—*Accidents arising from Machinery.*

Nature of Injury.	Adults.		Young Persons.		Children.		Total.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.&F.
Causing death - - -	13	4	6	3	2	2	21	9	30
Amputation of right hand or arm	7	1	5	2	—	—	12	3	15
Amputation of left hand or arm	7	—	2	1	1	—	10	1	11
Amputation of part of right hand	20	23	23	26	9	7	52	56	108
Amputation of part of left hand	17	13	19	27	5	7	41	47	88
Amputation of any part of leg } or foot - - - - }	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Fracture of limbs and bones of } trunk - - - - }	23	7	16	18	1	1	40	26	66
Fracture of hand or foot -	24	26	27	28	8	9	59	63	122
Injuries to head and face -	22	22	16	18	6	1	44	41	85
Lacerations, contusions, and } other injuries not enumerated } above - - - - }	226	190	229	268	60	28	515	486	1001
Total -	360	286	343	391	92	55	795	732	1527

TABLE No. II.—*Accidents not arising from Machinery.*

Nature of Injury.	Adults.		Young Persons.		Children.		Total.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.&F.
Causing death - - -	5	—	—	—	1	—	6	—	6
Fracture of limbs and bones of } trunk - - - - }	8	2	9	4	1	—	18	6	24
Fracture of hand or foot -	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3
Injuries to head and face -	3	2	8	1	2	3	13	6	19
Lacerations, contusions, and } other injuries not enumerated } above - - - - }	26	10	9	5	4	2	39	17	56
Total -	45	14	26	10	8	5	79	29	108

APPENDIX No. 2.

SUMMARY of the Total Number of Informations and Convictions, and the Amount of Penalties and Costs, in the Districts of the Two Inspectors, during the Six Months ended the 31st of October 1863.

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENCE.	Number of Informations.	Result.			Penalties imposed.									
		Convictions.	Withdrawn on Payment of Costs.	Dismissed.	5s.	20s.	30s.	40s.	50s.	£3.	£3. 3s.	£5.	£20.	
Neglecting to fence mill gearing whereby bodily injury was caused -	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	
Employing children and young persons without registering their names and date of first employment -	39	24	12	3	—	1	—	17	2	2	1	1	—	
Employing children and young persons without surgical certificates -	31	20	8	3	—	7	—	9	2	2	—	—	—	
Employing children before noon and after 1 o'clock P.M. of the same day -	8	4	4	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Employing children without school vouchers -	17	12	5	—	—	9	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	
Employing children, young persons, and females at night.	15	15	—	—	—	—	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	
Employing children, young persons, and women before 6 o'clock A.M.	8	8	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Employing children, young persons, and women after 6 o'clock P.M. -	173	94	79	—	—	91	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	
Employing children, young persons, and women after 7 o'clock P.M. -	22	5	17	—	—	—	—	4	—	1	—	—	—	
Employing young persons, and women after 2 o'clock on Saturday -	51	37	12	2	—	23	—	14	—	—	—	—	—	
Employing young persons and women during meal hours -	81	33	48	—	—	33	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Parents employing or conniving at the illegal employment of their children	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Parents neglecting to cause their children to attend school -	5	2	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Neglecting to give notice of occupation -	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	
Not keeping a register -	6	4	1	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENCE.	Number of Informations.	Result.			Penalties imposed.									
		Convictions.	Withdrawn on Payment of Costs.	Dismissed.	5s.	20s.	30s.	40s.	50s.	£3.	£3. 3s.	£5.	£20.	
Deducting from the wages of young persons sums exceeding threepence, for fees for surgical certificates - - - -	3	1	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	
Making false entries in the register of young persons-	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	
* Parent forging the certificate of birth of his child	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Wilful obstruction of the sub-inspector in the execution of his office -	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	
Total	468	266	190	12	3	176	2	67	6	6	1	3	1	

The Total amount of Fines inflicted - - £ 384. 18.

The Total amount of Costs - - - £ 207. 11. 2.

* Imprisoned for two calendar months.

Half-yearly REPORT OF ALEXANDER REDGRAVE, Esquire,
Inspector of Factories, for the Six Months ended the
31st October 1863.

10, *Whitehall*, S.W.

1st Feb. 1864.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to submit to you my Report for the six months ended the 31st October last.

The following is a list of the places in which I have visited various establishments under inspection, and schools, during the same period: Manchester, Pendleton, Pendlebury, Bury, Droylsden, Fairfield; Oldham, Staleybridge; Blackburn, Darwen; Leeds, Horsforth, Bingley, Keighley; Bradford, Clayton, Mirfield, Wakefield, Horbury, Dewsbury, Batley; Halifax, Brighouse, Stainland, Sowerbybridge, Todmorden; Huddersfield, Penistone, Saddleworth; Glasgow, New Lanark, Blantyre, Hamilton, Paisley, Johnstone; in the counties of Aberdeen, Banff, Elgin, and Inverness;—and in and about the Metropolis.

The number of informations, which were laid during the half year, have been rather in excess of the previous six months; and I regret to add, that this excess has been caused by the cases of over-work in the neighbourhood of Blackburn and Darwen. Of the whole informations, 278 in number, 197 were for breaches of the law in respect to the employment of children, young persons, and women, either before 6 A.M., after 6 P.M., after 2 P.M. on Saturdays, or during meal times; and of these 197 cases, 106 occurred in cotton factories, viz. 10 in Manchester, 2 in Oldham, and 94 in Blackburn and its immediate neighbourhood. The over-work which has been practised there has caused a great deal of dissatisfaction among the operatives generally; for although a few hours extra work per week may be of great value to persons who are unable to earn ordinary wages even when upon full work, yet it is felt how much more ought those altogether out of work to participate in the advantages of a sudden and even temporary briskness, and to earn, however small their portion may be, wages for labour, instead of receiving the dole of relief. The operative cotton spinners in Blackburn have felt this point so keenly, that they have published their opinions, strongly deprecating even the lawful employment of adults for more than the usual hours of work; they say,

“Our capital is our labour, and our right to toil our inheritance. When we saw that right destroyed, and we were forced to remain idle, we bore our troubles with fortitude and patience, nor did we use harsh words to our employers. With pleasure we a few months since saw a partial resumption of work in many of the cotton mills. We then thought that the worst had passed. We knew that a large number of operatives still remained

unemployed, waiting in the hope that a few weeks longer would alter the general character of those arrangements which deprived many of bread. When we heard that at a certain place in the town, where only a part of the machinery was worked and a portion of the hands only employed, overtime to a great extent was being performed at the request of the employer, we felt that we had cause for complaint. The adult operatives employed at this mill had been asked to work from 12 to 13 hours per day, while there are hundreds who are compelled to be idle who would willingly work partial time, in order to maintain their families and save their brethren from a premature grave through being overworked. It has been said that when trade revives fresh hands will have to be imported into Lancashire in order to meet the demand for labour. We would ask if the practice of working overtime by a number of hands, while others are unwillingly idle, is likely to create a good feeling and establish confidence between masters and servants. Those who are working overtime feel the injustice equally with those who are condemned to forced idleness. There is in the district almost sufficient work to give to all partial employment, if fairly distributed. We feel that we are only asking what is right in requesting the masters generally to pursue a system of short hours, particularly until a better state of things begin to dawn upon us, rather than to work a portion of the hands overtime, while others, for want of work, are compelled to exist upon charity."

The sub-inspector of this district, Mr. Henderson, has been indefatigable in warning manufacturers, and in visiting different parts of the district early and late; and I trust that the greater regularity which is now established will continue, and render these frequent prosecutions less necessary.

There is a case upon which I beg to offer a few observations; that of the charges against the Trades Lane Calendering Company at Dundee, for having employed young persons in the night, &c. The Company were convicted upon all the charges, and the Justices imposed a penalty of 3*l.* 3*s.* in one case, in order to give the Company the power of appealing against the conviction, the Act denying the right of appeal in any case where the penalty does not exceed 3*l.* The Company appealed against *all* the charges, and the Justices in Quarter Sessions overruled the objection that the right of appeal was restricted to one case, alleging that the aggregate of the fines exceeded 3*l.*, and therefore the right of appeal covered all the charges. They subsequently quashed the whole of the convictions. By your authority the Lord Advocate has been instructed to bring the decision of the Court of Quarter Sessions for review by the Court of Session at Edinburgh. I do not therefore propose to offer any observations upon the legal bearings of the case, but I believe very considerable dissatisfaction exists at the decision which quashed the convictions. I have had a practical state-

ment as to how the long hours in calendering works at Dundee are systematically arranged, and as to the evils attendant upon the system. The writer, of whose statements I have received satisfactory corroboration, says,—

“The regulation working hours per week are 60 hours, divided thus ; from 6 to 9, 10 to 2, 3 to 6.30 for five days, and on Saturdays 6 to 9, 10 to 2.30. But over and above this, the workmen are all liable to be kept three hours extra on four nights a week, by getting notice on those days before 2 o’clock ; some works keep them five hours a night extra ; that this is detrimental to the welfare of the men, I need not reason with you. The working so long may be said to go through the world doing only three things, working, eating, sleeping, a dreary routine of life, denying culture for the mind. This compares badly with other trades, the most of which only work 57 hours per week, and some are aiming at reducing it to nine hours a day. It is a very notable thing, too, that where long hours are the rule, small wages are also so. Thus the calender workers have the long hours, and they have the small pay, 11s. to 16s. per 60 hours being the rule ; the extra pay, therefore, forcibly shuts many a poor man’s mouth, in order to get the necessaries for a family.”

The writer of this speaks, probably, from the point of view as affecting himself ; but I can confirm his statements, that the remuneration for trades in which long hours prevail, is less than the pay in trades which are under restriction. In my Report for April 1860, I pointed out how the wages in factories had increased, while the wages in print-works, bleach-works, dye-works, &c., not then under restriction, had decreased. And again, in my Report for April last, I showed, in the case of labour in open-air bleach-works, that the restrictions upon labour in them had been most beneficial to the operatives, in abolishing the system of “over-time.”

But the restriction of labour in these employments is not beneficial to the operatives in a pecuniary point of view only ; it is of far higher importance. The bodily activity and the attention continued for so many hours, create the desire for stimulants of some kind or other ; and herein is a great temptation to those employed upon “over-time.” I am informed that, at some of the calendering establishments at Dundee, coffee is provided at night for the operatives, but that at others the operatives consume spirits freely, and that intemperate habits have been induced by the craving for spirits caused by the long hours in establishments in which over-time is constantly resorted to.

The total amount of fines imposed in the half year was 248*l.* 13*s.* ; but, as the conviction of the Trades Lane Calendering Company of Dundee was quashed, the fines have not been paid, and the nonpayment of the fines reduces the amount for distribution to schools to 198*l.* 10*s.*

With your sanction, I have made the following grants in my district for the half year:—

	£
To the National School, Grimshaw Park, Blackburn	20
To the National School, Raggles Inn, near Halifax -	15
To the National School, Walsden, near Todmorden -	15
To the St. George's National School, Chorley -	15
To the St. Luke's National School, Heywood, near Manchester - - - -	15
To the National School, Brighouse, near Halifax -	10
To the National School, Horsforth Woodside, near Leeds - - - - -	10
To the National School, Sough, near Darwen -	10
To the National School, Trinity District, Blackburn -	10
To the National School, St. Paul's, Manningham, near Bradford - - - -	10
To the National School, Haworth, near Keighley -	10
To the St. Ann's Roman Catholic School, Blackburn	10
To the Eastbrook Wesleyan School, Bradford -	10
To the St. Maries' Roman Catholic School, Bradford	10
To the Knatbank British School, Heywood - -	10
To the National School, Alverthorpe, Wakefield -	5
To the National School, Buckhurst, near Bury -	5
To the National School, Dewsbury - - -	5
To the Private School at Frizinhall, near Bradford -	5
	<hr/>
	£ 200
	<hr/>

I have kept my Report open to a much later date than usual, that I might submit to you some remarks upon the condition of the Cotton Districts during the year 1863, and I have not been able until now to obtain all the details which I thought desirable to procure. In the inquiries I have made, I have received much assistance from Mr. Ewings, the experienced sub-inspector for the Preston district,—Mr. Patrick of the Rochdale district,—and Mr. Coles of the Manchester district. Mr. Henderson, the sub-inspector for Blackburn, has given me great help in various questions connected with his district; and Mr. Oram, the sub-inspector for Ashton-under-Lyne and Oldham, has been kind enough to obtain by personal investigation a great deal of very interesting and valuable matter, not only for his own district, but for several of the towns in his neighbourhood, which I shall have frequent occasion to quote. To these gentlemen I owe my thanks for their special services, and, in common with their colleagues, the remainder of the staff of my district, for their zealous co-operation in the varied duties we have to perform.

I have already had the honour to thank you for your very kind reception of the representations which you permitted me to make to you on behalf of the Sub-Inspectors of

Factories, and for your approval of the joint recommendation of my colleague and myself that their salaries should be made dependent upon length of service, and I have now the gratification of informing you that the Sub-Inspectors of my district have expressed to me their appreciation of the arrangement you have made.

The statistics of the Cotton Distress have been published monthly, under the direction of Mr. Maclure, by the Manchester Central Committee, and they give the best means of arriving at a knowledge of the variation of the distress, the points where it pressed most, and, what is of vast importance, the gradual improvement in trade, the diminution of relief, and the absorption of the unemployed cotton operatives into other channels of industry. The various local relief committees are in the position of obtaining information upon the points sought by the Manchester Committee; and Mr. Maclure has collated the local returns in a very concise and intelligible form, making them a complete standard return of reference.

The Returns refer to 28 Poor Law Unions representing what may be fairly called the Cotton Districts, and they give for each union, and in many points for each township in each union, very varied information; and I propose to lay before you some of the principal facts to be gathered from them, taking in the first place, the

COST OF RELIEF.

Referring to the question of the cost, up to this time, of relief, it will be found at page 15 of Mr. Maclure's Return for the last week of December, that there has been expended up to that date, in the shape of voluntary subscriptions, the sum of 1,323,493*l.*, in addition to the cost of the poor maintained by the Guardians, in excess of the ordinary number, and who would therefore be placed to the account of the distress. In Ashton-under-Lyne Union, which, from other documents published by the Manchester Committee in April 1863, contains 154 cotton factories, giving employment to nearly 50,000 hands, with a small proportion of other occupations dependent upon the Cotton Trade, the sum of 230,000*l.* had been expended from relief funds. In the township of Manchester, with a factory population of 18,000, 131,000*l.* has been expended. In Preston Union, with 96 cotton mills, and a factory population of 30,000, 119,000*l.* has been expended. In Blackburn Union 100,000*l.* has been expended. In Oldham Union, with 186 cotton mills, and a factory population of 33,000, 72,734*l.* has been expended. In Rochdale Union, with 182 cotton mills, and a factory population of

25,000, 65,000*l.* has been expended. In Bury Union, with 205 cotton mills, and with a factory population of 29,000, 59,000*l.* has been expended.

The sums thus expended will be found to be in the following proportions to the rateable value of the *cotton mills* in the undermentioned unions, as assessed to the poor's rate:

Ashton-under-Lyne	-	-	-	123 per cent.
Manchester	-	-	-	205 „
Oldham	-	-	-	9 „
Rochdale	-	-	-	40 „
Bury	-	-	-	14 „

The Return does not give sufficient data for a similar calculation in respect to Preston and Blackburn.

The sums thus expended will be found to be in the following proportions to the total rateable value of the *property assessed to the poor's rate in the under-mentioned unions*:

In Ashton-under-Lyne	-	more than two thirds.
„ Manchester	-	about one sixth.
„ Preston	-	nearly one half.
„ Oldham	-	nearly one fourth.
„ Rochdale	-	one fourth.
„ Bury	-	nearly one fifth.

The above-mentioned sums were those raised by voluntary efforts, the sums distributed by the several relief committees; but, turning to the sums expended by the Poor Law Guardians for relief, the stress put upon the unions will be apparent. The following is a comparison of the expenditure for the year ended 25th March 1859 with that for the year ended 25th March 1863:

	1859.	1863.
Ashton-under-Lyne	-£ 18,555	£ 91,038
Manchester	- 153,938	234,492
Preston	- 21,769	75,717
Oldham	- 24,367	87,955
Rochdale	- 20,348	55,609
Bury	- 26,747	43,552

From the same Return (April 1863) it will be found that the rates levied on the unions in the year ended March 1861 varied from 1*s.* 0 $\frac{3}{4}$ *d.* to 1*s.* 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ *d.* in the pound, and that for the year ended March 1863 they reached as high as an average of 6*s.* 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ *d.* in the pound, in the Ashton-under-Lyne Union. But the severe pressure will be best seen by examining the rates of the different townships. For instance, in the township of Dukinfield the rates in 1861 amounted to 8*d.* in the pound, in March 1863 they had reached the sum of 8*s.* in the pound.

In the township of Howick, in the Preston Union, the rates were 4*d.* in the pound in 1861, and 5*s.* 4*d.* in 1863. In Oldham and Middleton, 2*s.* in 1861, and 8*s.* in 1863. In Ainsworth and Birtle, in the Bury Union, 1*s.* in 1861, and 4*s.* 6*d.* in 1863.

The total amount levied for the poor in the 28 unions amounted in 1859 to 500,000*l.*, and in the year ended 25th March 1863 to nearly 1,000,000*l.* It will be found therefore, that, reckoning from the commencement of the crisis to the end of last year, very nearly 3,000,000*l.* will have been expended by the Guardians, the Central Relief Committee, and the Mansion House Committee, in maintaining those who have suffered from the distress. To this must be added that of which an estimate could with difficulty be made, viz.,—the sums distributed by private charity unconnected with the public bodies, and of the stores of clothing distributed. This large sum of money has been distributed at the smallest percentage of cost, but at the expenditure of time and labour by the several relief committees with an earnest and a self-denying devotedness that only those who have witnessed their operations, and are aware of the difficult and frequently recurring questions arising for consideration and settlement, can fully appreciate.

NO. OF PERSONS RELIEVED.

The year 1863 began with a considerable reduction in the number of persons in the receipt of relief, and happily a steady and remarkable improvement continued to show itself.

From Mr. Maclure's returns it appears that the following are the statistics for the last week in January of last year:—

Number of operatives working full time	- 147,542
" " " short time	- 160,189
" " entirely out of work	- 228,992

Making a total of operatives whose employ- ment was dependent upon the cotton trade - }	536,723
--	---------

The persons relieved at the same date, i.e. operatives and members of their families:

Number of persons relieved solely by relief committees	- - - - - 235,741
Number of persons relieved by relief committees, in addition to out-door relief from guardians	- 138,889
Number of persons (out-door) from guardians only	82,156

Making a total of persons relieved on account of the distress - - - - - }	456,786
--	---------

From this time, and continuing to the last week in October, the Return shows a continued decrease. In November a slight check occurred; work was less abundant, and mills were shortening their time. This continued in December, when the increase of persons relieved, over the number in the last week of October, was 12,000. But, taking the last week in December, and comparing it with the last week in January, the following reductions will be found to extend over 170 townships in the same unions;—the returns of January only including 152 townships:

No. of operatives working full time	-	238,278
„ „ short time	-	116,412
„ entirely out of work	-	149,038
		<hr/>
Total	-	503,728
		<hr/>
Number of persons relieved solely by relief committees	-	57,617
Number of persons relieved by relief committees in addition to out-door relief of guardians	-	40,348
Number relieved solely by guardians	-	82,944
		<hr/>
Total	-	180,909
		<hr/>

Or, upon reckoning the per-centage of the above figures, it will be found that the operatives on full time have increased by 62 per cent.; of operatives on short time have diminished by 26 per cent.; and that the operatives entirely out of work have decreased by 34 per cent. The number of persons relieved solely by the relief committees is one fourth of the number relieved in January; the number relieved both by the relief committees and the guardians is one third of the number relieved in January; while the number relieved by the guardians only, has slightly increased. Part of this diminution in the two first classes has been caused by the relief committees expunging from their lists, about the middle of 1863, the names of all persons not strictly cotton operatives, who were thus thrown upon the guardians, and apparently increased the number on their lists.

Although there has been a large number of persons not strictly cotton operatives removed from the relief lists in accordance with the above-mentioned resolution of the committees, yet I am informed that the Manchester returns of operatives in and out of work include persons not cotton operatives*; and I propose, therefore, to compare the number

* The Manchester returns for Oldham give the number of operatives as 26,211, and I have now before me a return of the Chief Constable from which it appears that the total of 26,211 includes 6,588 machinists, &c., 71 reed and healdmakers, 69 bobbin turners, 231 hatters, and 647 colliery hands, the number of cotton operatives being only 18,605.

of the operatives employed in factories, and the state of employment for full or short time from January to December 1863. These Returns will not accord with those of Mr. Maclure from the above reason, and because I have taken generally the area of a borough instead of a union, my object having been to show the state of trade in the clusters of mills in towns. I have given separate Returns for 20 of the principal towns in my district, and I am indebted to the courtesy of the members and secretaries of the several relief committees, and of the chief officers of police (by whom similar returns are made for the Manchester Committee) for the information as to these places, and I take this opportunity of expressing my best thanks to them for the ready assistance they have afforded me in their districts.

It is necessary, in order to understand some of the causes which have led to a greater improvement in the trade in some districts than in others, that the class of cotton used, and the nature of the manufacture carried on in the different localities, should be taken into consideration; and I have therefore appended to the Return for each town a short description of the nature of the manufacture carried on.

The last column in the returns headed "Number not employed in the mills" is the balance not accounted for, after reckoning the number employed, and consists of those receiving relief either from local committees or boards of guardians, of those belonging to families some members of which are in work and who are not therefore receiving relief of any kind, of those who have found work in other occupations in their own towns, and the number of those who have left the district.

ACCRINGTON.

In this district the proportion of spinning and weaving factories is as follows : spinning 12 per cent., spinning and weaving 10 per cent., weaving 78 per cent.

The cotton formerly used was "American middling."

The qualities now used are fair Surat, with a mixture of American middling and Egyptian. The average counts of yarn are 30 s to 36 s twist, and 32 s to 46 s weft.

RETURN showing the State of Employment of the Operatives in
COTTON MILLS in ACCRINGTON.

1863.	State of Factories.						State of the Operatives.				
	Total number of Mills.	Full time.		on short time.	Number stopped.	Total number of Hands usually employed.	Number work- ing full time.	Number work- ing short time.	Number not em- ployed in the Mills.		
		With all Hands.	With part of Hands.								
January	-	-	37	5	16	10	6	6,065	3,747	1,403	915
February	-	-	37	7	14	10	6	6,065	3,860	1,535	670
March	-	-	37	7	18	7	5	6,065	3,481	1,820	764
April	-	-	37	17	10	7	3	6,065	3,481	1,820	764
May	-	-	37	22	12	—	3	6,065	5,378	—	687

The Accrington Relief Committee suspended operations in June 1863, after having expended three-fifths of the amount subscribed to the fund.

It appears from other sources that the total number of persons relieved by the Guardians in the last week of December of the three last years was as follows :—

1861.	1862.	1863.
198	906	507

There were then about 300 persons relieved in December 1863 over those relieved in December 1861, and this number must be considered as the probable number now suffering from the crisis in Accrington, and helps to show that a large proportion of the 687 persons have found other occupations or have left the neighbourhood.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

Very little cotton except American was used in this district, and the factories that are now working very generally substitute a mixture of Egyptian and Surat, except one or two of the mills in which finer numbers are spun.

The proportion of spinning factories is 59 per cent., of spinning and weaving factories 32 per cent., and of weaving 9 per cent. Average counts of yarn average from 32 s to 46 s, a few spin up to 80 s.

RETURN showing the State of Employment of the Operatives in COTTON MILLS within the Borough of ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE in each Month from January to December 1863, as per Report of Geo. Dalgleish, Esq., Chief Constable.

1863.	State of Factories.					State of the Operatives.			
	Total number of Mills.	Full time.		on short time.	Number stopped.	Total number of Hands usually employed.†	Number working full time.	Number working short time.	Number not employed in the Mills.
		With all Hands.	With part of Hands.						
January - -	36	5	3	8	20	10,856	1,263	3,111	6,482
February - -	36	4	5	7	20	10,856	1,699	2,650	6,507
March - - -	36	5	4	8	19	10,856	1,738	2,773	6,345
April - - -	36	4	5	9	18	10,856	1,458	3,149	6,249
May - - -	36	5	5	6	20	10,856	1,704	2,310	6,842
June - - -	*37	6	7	5	19	10,856	1,886	2,372	6,598
July - - -	37	7	9	5	16	10,856	2,213	2,227	6,416
August - - -	37	6	8	8	15	10,856	2,197	2,664	5,995
September - -	37	8	9	4	16	10,856	2,648	2,370	5,838
October - -	37	8	9	4	16	10,856	2,584	2,391	5,881
November - -	37	6	7	8	16	10,856	2,479	2,655	5,722
December - -	37	6	6	8	17	10,856	2,128	2,772	5,956

* One new mill opened.

† As per Factory Inspector's Returns.

BACUP.

The lowest priced American, Surat, and waste cotton from fine spinning mills was formerly used; now they use Surat, China, and waste.

Counts of yarn spun average from 16 s to 28 s twist, and 20 s to 36 s weft.

The proportion of spinning factories only is small in this district.

RETURN showing the State of Employment of the Operatives in COTTON MILLS in the Town of BACUP, in each Month from January to December 1863, as per Report of the Relief Committee.

1863.	State of Factories.					State of the Operatives.			
	Total number of Mills.	Full time.		on short time.	Number stopped.	Total number of Hands usually employed.	Number working full time.	Number working short time.	Number not employed in the Mills.
		With all Hands.	With part of Hands.						
January - -	56	2	4	12	38	6,156	660	1,592	3,904
February - -	56	1	4	10	41	6,156	170	1,327	4,659
March - -	56	2	3	7	44	6,156	295	821	5,040
April - - -	56	2	12	10	32	6,156	800	1,112	4,244
May - - -	56	2	14	18	22	6,156	929	1,622	3,605
June - - -	56	6	24	10	20	6,156	1,993	1,061	3,102
July - - -	56	6	18	14	18	6,156	1,640	1,578	2,938
August - -	56	7	23	10	16	6,156	2,266	731	3,159

The Bacup Relief Committee suspended operations in September 1863. Although the Returns show 3,159 persons as still out of employment, the emigration and migration from this district (which has been very great) must have considerably reduced them. The actual reduction which has thus taken place has never been ascertained. The Bacup Committee, however, resumed distributing relief on the first week of January 1864.

BLACKBURN.

American "middling" was the quality of cotton chiefly used in this district ; now fair Surat with mixture of middling American and Egyptian.

Proportion of spinning factories 12 per cent., spinning and weaving factories 63 per cent., and weaving factories 25 per cent.

Counts of yarn 30 s to 36 s twist, and 32 s to 46 s weft.

RETURN showing the State of Employment of the Operatives in COTTON MILLS in the Borough of BLACKBURN, in each Month from January to December 1863, as per Report of J. C. Fielden, Esq., Honorary Secretary to the Relief Committee.

1863.	State of Factories.					State of the Operatives.			
	Total number of Mills.	Full time.		on short time.	Number stopped.	Total number of Hands usually employed.	Number working full time.	Number working short time.	Number not employed in the Mills.
		With all Hands.	With part of Hands.						
January	82	17	30	8	27	24,480	10,434	2,512	11,534
February	82	19	28	8	27	24,480	10,994	2,398	11,088
March	82	17	29	7	29	24,480	9,797	2,927	11,764
April	82	26	19	3	34	24,480	11,504	1,648	11,328
May	82	26	25	3	28	24,480	13,883	1,549	9,048
June	82	24	27	4	27	24,480	14,664	1,541	8,275
July	82	26	30	3	23	24,480	15,010	1,200	8,270
August	82	25	27	7	23	24,480	14,508	1,780	8,192
September	82	33	18	6	25	24,480	14,138	1,365	8,977
October	82	35	24	5	18	24,480	15,910	1,153	7,417
November	82	33	20	4	25	24,480	14,392	2,580	7,508
December	82	29	18	6	29	24,480	13,428	816	10,236

A comparison of the number of persons relieved by the Relief Committee and the number relieved by the Board of Guardians in the three last years will help to account for some portion of the numbers in the last column. The number relieved by the Committee for the last week of December 1863 was 3,481 persons. The numbers relieved in the last week of December by the Boards of Guardians, was—

In 1861.	1862.	1863.
3,563	18,707	4,340

It may be assumed that the numbers in 1863 are only 800 in excess of the ordinary number of paupers ; it would follow, therefore, that about 4,200 persons are now receiving relief from causes to be attributed to the cotton famine. Further, it is estimated that since December 1861, 2,000 operatives have emigrated or migrated from Blackburn ; in addition to this, a large number still resident in the borough have found employment in neighbouring townships ; and the cotton operatives of the district will from these causes be considerably reduced at the present time.

BURY.

Orleans cotton was universally used before the crisis ; now it is replaced by a mixture of Surat, Smyrna, and a little Egyptian.

The average counts spun would be about 26 s, varying from 14 s to 32 s twist, and 16 s to 28 s weft.

The proportion of spinning factories is 39 per cent., of spinning and weaving factories 30 per cent., of weaving factories 31 per cent.

RETURN showing the State of Employment of the Operatives in
COTTON MILLS in BURY and ELTON, in each Month from
January to December 1863.

1863.			State of Factories.					State of the Operatives.			
			Total number of Mills.	Full time.		on short time.	Number stopped.	Total number of Hands usually employed.	Number working full time.	Number working short time.	Number not employed in the Mills.
				With all Hands.	With part of Hands.						
January	-	-	41	9	5	13	14	7,324	1,582	2,568	3,174
February	-	-	41	9	5	13	14	7,324	1,511	2,574	3,239
March	-	-	41	14	3	11	13	7,324	1,945	2,337	3,042
April	-	-	41	13	4	10	14	7,324	1,980	2,362	2,982
May	-	-	41	13	4	11	13	7,324	1,945	2,330	3,049
June	-	-	41	13	4	11	13	7,324	1,835	2,602	2,887
July	-	-	41	17	6	9	9	7,324	2,584	2,267	2,473
August	-	-	41	18	8	8	7	7,324	3,081	1,743	2,500
September	-	-	41	19	7	8	7	7,324	3,080	1,754	2,490
October	-	-	41	20	2	7	12	7,324	2,912	1,486	2,926
November	-	-	41	17	4	11	9	7,324	2,434	2,009	2,881
December	-	-	41	9	5	11	16	7,324	1,387	2,477	3,460

DUKINFIELD.

The remarks appended to the Returns for Ashton-under-Lyne are applicable to Dukinfield and Staleybridge.

RETURN showing the State of Employment of the Operatives in COTTON MILLS within the Township of DUKINFIELD, in each Month from January to December 1863, as per Report of Joseph Little, Esq., Deputy Chief Constable of Cheshire.

1863.	State of Factories.					State of the Operatives.			
	Total number of Mills.	Full time.		on short time.	Number stopped.	Total number of Hands usually employed.*	Number working full time.	Number working short time.	Number not employed in the Mills.
		With all Hands.	With part of Hands.						
January - -	20	5	1	8	6	4,580	1,061	1,573	1,946
February - -	20	1	1	12	6	4,580	348	2,118	2,124
March - -	20	5	3	6	6	4,580	1,140	1,466	1,974
April - - -	20	2	1	11	6	4,580	812	1,703	2,065
May - - -	20	6	3	6	5	4,580	1,223	1,122	2,235
June - - -	20	3	5	5	7	4,580	1,161	803	2,616
July - - -	20	3	6	5	6	4,580	1,091	880	2,609
August - -	20	5	2	6	7	4,580	738	1,335	2,507
September - -	20	7	3	2	8	4,580	1,457	600	2,523
October - -	20	6	3	4	7	4,580	1,359	827	2,394
November - -	20	7	5	2	6	4,580	1,156	745	2,679
December - -	20	5	4	3	8	4,580	1,127	524	2,929

* As per Factory Inspector's Returns.

GLOSSOP.

American cotton was used before the war.

Counts spun from 30 s to 50 s.

The spinning and weaving factories are of large size and great importance, although few in number.

RETURN showing the State of Employment of the Operatives in COTTON MILLS in GLOSSOP, in each Month from January to December 1863, as per Return of Relief Committed.

1863.	State of Factories.					State of the Operatives.			
	Total number of Mills.	Full time.		on short time.	Number stopped.	Total number of Hands usually employed.	Number working full time.	Number working short time.	Number not employed in the Mills.
		With all Hands.	With part of Hands.						
January - -	12	2	—	3	7	6,142	118	112	5,912
February - -	12	2	1	2	7	6,142	143	32	5,967
March - -	12	1	2	2	7	6,142	131	41	5,970
April - - -	12	—	2	4	6	6,142	25	229	5,888
May - - -	12	1	1	4	6	6,142	131	123	5,888
June - - -	12	1	1	3	7	6,142	131	38	5,973
July - - -	12	—	3	2	7	6,142	86	32	6,024
August - -	12	1	4	5	2	6,142	155	115	5,872
September - -	12	2	6	2	2	6,142	459	42	5,641
October - -	12	—	4	5	3	6,142	477	118	6,547
November - -	12	—	4	3	5	6,142	485	48	5,609
December - -	12	—	5	3	4	6,142	595	105	5,442

The number 12 represents firms rather than mills, as Messrs. Wood and Sumner's factories, at which usually a very large proportion of the operatives are employed, consist of several mills.

It appears that in Glossop and Hadfield 254 cotton operatives have obtained temporary employment in other occupations, 277 have emigrated, and 854 have left the neighbourhood.

HASLINGDEN.

The lowest qualities of cotton were generally used in this district before the crisis, although a few of the mills consumed finer sorts. A leading branch of the Haslingden trade is the manufacture of heavy sheetings, for which a considerable quantity of waste is used, the lowest counts of yarn being spun. Proportion of spinning factories 10 per cent., of spinning and weaving factories 70 per cent., of weaving factories 20 per cent.

RETURN showing the State of Employment of the Operatives in COTTON MILLS in the TOWN of HASLINGDEN, in each Month from January to December 1863, as per Report of Haslingden Relief Committee.

1863.	State of Factories.					State of the Operatives.			
	Total number of Mills.	Full time.		on short time.	Number stopped.	Total number of Hands usually employed.	Number working full time.	Number working short time,	Number not employed in the Mills.
		With all Hands.	With part of Hands.						
January - - -	47	5	12	17	13	4,538	1,778	1,444	1,316
February - - -	47	5	14	16	12	4,538	1,821	1,604	1,113
March - - -	47	7	16	15	9	4,538	1,907	1,444	1,187
April - - -	47	7	21	11	8	4,538	2,035	1,399	1,104
May - - -	47	7	26	7	7	4,538	2,085	1,420	1,033

The Haslingden Relief Committee suspended operations in June 1863, having been in operation ten months.

The number of persons relieved in the Haslingden Union for the last week of December in the three last years was as follows:—

1861.	1862.	1863.
1,294	7,410	2,980

The union thus has borne the whole of the charge of distressed operatives since June last ; according to the union return 1,700 in excess of ordinary years.

HEYWOOD

American middling with Mobile was chiefly used, now fair Surat, with a proportion of Egyptian.

Average counts of yarn spun 20 s to 32 s twist, and 24 s to 36 s weft.

Of spinning factories there are 68 per cent., of spinning and weaving 24 per cent., and of weaving 8 per cent.

RETURN showing the State of Employment of the Operatives in COTTON MILLS in HEYWOOD, in each Month from January to December 1863, as per Report of Relief Committee.

1863.	State of Factories.					State of the Operatives.			
	Total number of Mills.	Full time.		on short time.	Number stopped.	Total number of Hands usually employed.	Number working full time.	Number working short time.	Number not employed in the Mills.
		With all Hands.	With part of Hands.						
January - - -	58	10	18	23	7	7,457	2,015	1,838	3,604
February - - -	58	7	15	28	8	7,457	1,430	2,200	3,827
March - - -	58	7	19	24	8	7,457	1,813	2,219	3,425
April - - -	58	11	23	16	8	7,457	3,195	1,264	2,998
May - - -	58	13	29	12	6	7,457	3,310	1,025	3,122
June - - -	60	14	28	13	5	7,457	3,976	582	2,899
July - - -	60	13	27	15	5	7,457	3,167	836	3,454
August - - -	60	16	30	10	4	7,457	4,555	543	2,359
September -	60	12	31	13	4	7,457	4,061	944	2,452
October - -	60	10	33	11	6	7,457	3,139	1,147	3,171
November -	60	7	36	11	6	7,457	2,753	1,370	3,334
December -	60	6	34	13	7	7,457	2,078	1,756	3,623

It has been estimated, from a census taken in Heywood, that 1,891 persons have emigrated, and migrated to other districts.

MANCHESTER.

The word “Manchester” is frequently used as a word applicable to the whole of the Cotton Districts ; and being the nucleus of the cotton trade, it contains within itself an epitome of all the various branches of the trade which are generally to be found separately established in different towns throughout the county ; but the chief cotton process carried on in Manchester factories is the spinning of the finest yarns, or the highest counts. In the Great Exhibition of 1862 were to be seen specimens of cotton yarn spun by Messrs. Holdsworth of this city, so fine that they had to be displayed taut, like the strings of a violin, over a piece of black velvet. The cotton used was, of course, the finest Sea Island cotton. This is now largely replaced by Egyptian.

RETURN showing the State of Employment of the Operatives in COTTON MILLS within the City of MANCHESTER (including the Townships of Manchester, Ardwick, Hulme, Beswick, and Chorlton on Medlock), in each Month from January to December 1863, as per Report of Capt. Palin, Chief Constable.

1863.	State of Factories.					State of the Operatives.			
	Total number of Mills.	Full time.		on short time.	Number stopped.	Total number of Hands usually employed.	Number working full time.	Number working short time.	Number not employed in the Mills.
		With all Hands.	With part of Hands.						
January	-	85	20	17	24	24,365	8,016	5,586	10,763
February	-	85	18	17	27	24,365	7,387	6,181	10,797
March	-	85	19	18	21	24,365	7,587	5,519	11,259
April	-	85	21	24	17	24,365	9,182	4,405	10,778
May	-	85	27	23	12	24,365	11,271	3,748	9,346
June	-	85	29	22	13	24,365	10,546	3,808	10,011
July	-	85	25	22	16	24,365	9,479	4,358	10,528
August	-	85	23	25	18	24,365	10,309	3,972	10,084
September	-	85	28	29	12	24,365	12,351	2,441	9,573
October*	-	86	21	38	12	24,365	12,149	2,760	9,456
November	-	86	23	36	14	24,365	12,108	2,706	9,551
December	-	86	18	36	15	24,365	10,488	2,945	10,932

* One new mill opened in October.

MOSSLEY.

Orleans and Pernams cotton was chiefly used before the American war, now Egyptian, with a little American.

Counts spun from 50s to 60s.

RETURN showing the State of Employment of the Operatives in COTTON MILLS in MOSSLEY, MICKLEHURST, and QUICK MERE, in each Month from January to December 1863, as per Report of Nathl. Buckley, Esq., Hon. Sec. to the Relief Committee.

1863.	Total number of Mills.	State of the Operatives.			
		Total number of Hands usually employed.	Number working full time.	Number working short time.	Number not employed in the Mills.
January - -	21	5,060	1,028	1,923	2,109
February - -	-	5,060	228	1,657	3,175
March - -	21	5,060	415	2,567	2,078
April - - -	21	5,060	2,124	942	1,994
May - - -	21	5,060	1,892	1,282	1,886
June - - -	21	5,060	846	2,208	2,006
July - - -	21	5,060	1,900	934	2,226
August - - -	21	5,060	1,122	1,677	2,261
September - -	21	5,060	1,817	1,089	2,154
October - - -	21	5,060	1,311	1,652	2,097
November - -	21	5,060	421	2,368	2,271
December - -	21	5,060	1,385	1,751	1,924

Mr. Buckley remarks in a letter that he is unable to give any information in respect to the *state of the factories* except the above, "the mills having worked so irregularly."

MOTTRAM.

American cotton was used in this district, now Egyptian, Brazilian, and Surat according to requirements of the mills.

Counts spun from 30 s to 90 s.

The occupation of the district is chiefly spinning, although there are two very important establishments in which weaving is also carried on.

RETURN showing the State of Employment of the Operatives in COTTON MILLS within the Townships of MOTTRAM, MATLEY, HOLLINGWORTH, TINTWISTLE, and STAYLEY, in each Month from January to December 1863, as per Report of Joseph Little, Esq., Deputy Chief Constable of Cheshire.

1863.		State of Factories.					State of the Operatives.			
		Total number of Mills.	Full time.		on short time.	Number stopped.	Total number of Hands usually employed.	Number working full time.	Number working short time.	Number not employed in the Mills.
			With all Hands.	With part of Hands.						
January	- -	34	12	4	11	7	8,586	1,216	2,517	4,853
February	- -	34	10	6	9	9	8,586	449	2,206	5,931
March	- -	34	12	5	9	8	8,586	1,081	1,596	5,909
April	- - -	34	16	4	7	7	8,586	2,200	1,115	5,271
May	- - -	34	12	2	13	7	8,586	362	3,007	5,217
June	- - -	34	15	5	7	7	8,586	1,373	2,182	5,031
July	- - -	34	13	4	8	9	8,586	1,267	2,524	4,795
August	- -	34	14	6	7	7	8,586	1,719	1,769	5,098
September	- -	34	16	4	7	7	8,586	2,356	1,306	4,924
October	- -	34	16	4	7	7	8,586	2,356	1,306	4,924
November	- -	34	12	2	15	5	8,586	496	2,965	5,125
December	- -	34	11	3	15	5	8,586	1,126	2,549	4,911

OLDHAM.

The kinds of cotton used in Oldham and its immediate neighbourhood have been various, in consequence of the different classes of yarn spun. For instance, there is a large quantity of yarn spun from 6 s to 20 s, and for this a mixture of Surat with waste is used ; then yarns are spun from 20 s to 40 s, for which Surat is used ; from 50 s to 70 s are made from Egyptian and mixtures, and up to 80 s from better qualities. It is well known that a large quantity of cotton waste has always been used at Oldham ; but as the hands get more accustomed to the waste, and as improvements in machinery advance, the preparation of the waste for spinning is so much better, that waste of a quality, which before the crisis was useless, can now be mixed with cotton and spun into a good yarn.

The factories in Oldham are nearly all engaged in spinning. The proportions are as follows :—spinning factories 86 per cent., spinning and weaving factories 11 per cent., weaving factories only 3 per cent.

RETURN showing the State of Employment of the Operatives in
COTTON MILLS in the Borough of OLDHAM, in each Month
from January to December 1863, as per Report of Jas.
Wetherell, Esq., Chief Constable.

1863.	State of Factories.					State of the Operatives.			
	Total number of Mills.	Full time.		on short time.	Number stopped.	Total number of Hands usually employed.*	Number work- ing full time.	Number work- ing short time.	Number not em- ployed in the Mills.
		With all Hands.	With part of Hands.						
January	112	23	16	46	27	18,998	5,270	9,085	4,643
February	112	15	10	56	31	18,998	2,641	10,907	5,450
March	112	22	25	36	29	18,998	4,564	6,085	8,349
April	112	28	35	28	21	18,998	7,930	5,048	6,010
May	112	36	38	24	14	18,998	11,685	4,850	2,463
June	112	36	39	22	15	18,998	11,743	4,720	2,535
July	112	33	36	26	17	18,998	9,132	5,006	4,860
August	118	31	41	25	21	19,779	7,584	5,570	6,625
September	118	31	41	25	21	19,779	11,179	2,857	5,743
October	118	45	36	21	16	19,779	11,023	3,117	5,639
November	118	27	35	38	18	19,779	8,991	4,671	6,117
December	118	22	39	43	14	19,779	7,404	6,577	5,798

* As per Factory Inspector's Returns.

The cause of the increase in the number usually employed is that, on a careful revision of the mills in the borough, certain factories were found to have been omitted in previous returns, and were consequently added to the list.

OVER DARWEN.

The kinds of cotton used much the same as at Blackburn. Proportion of factories as follows :—spinning factories 2 per cent., spinning and weaving factories 11 per cent., weaving factories 87 per cent.

RETURN showing the State of Employment of the Operatives in COTTON MILLS in the Township of OVER DARWEN, in each Month from January to December 1863, as per Report of Relief Committee.

1863.	State of Factories.					State of the Operatives.				
	Total number of Mills.	Full time.		on short time.	Number stopped.	Total number of Hands usually employed.	Number working full time.	Number working short time.	Number not employed in the Mills.	
		With all Hands.	With part of Hands.							
January - - -	42	8	12	15	7	8,078	4,354	2,030	1,694	
February - - -	42	8	12	15	7	8,078	4,354	2,030	1,694	
March - - -	42	10	14	12	6	8,078	5,906	713	1,459	
April - - -	42	10	14	12	6	8,078	5,906	713	1,459	
May - - -	42	10	14	12	6	8,078	5,906	713	1,459	
June - - -	44	16	18	6	4	8,078	6,729	354	995	
July - - -	44	16	20	6	2	8,078	6,859	354	865	
August - - -	44	22	16	4	2	8,078	7,429	319	330	
September - - -	44	25	13	4	2	8,078	7,429	319	330	
October - - -	44	29	11	2	2	8,078	7,629	119	330	
November - - -	44	29	11	2	2	8,078	7,629	119	330	
December - - -	44	29	11	2	2	8,078	7,629	119	330	

The return of the number of persons relieved in the Darwen district in 1861-2-3, shows that the numbers in the last column must be nearly absorbed ; the figures are,—

In 1861.	1862.	1863.
754	1,683	871

A certain number in the last column will form part of the 871, which appears to be about 120 above the ordinary number of paupers, and as hands are wanted in Darwen and but very few relieved by the Committee, it may be considered that there are none actually unemployed in the district.

PRESTON.

American cotton was used to the extent of five sixths of the whole previous to the crisis, but now principally Egyptian, Surat, and a small portion of Brazilian. Before the crisis the yarns spun in Preston generally averaged from 30s to 40s, but now much finer yarns are spun, averaging probably 50s, and a lighter description of goods is manufactured. Preston used to sell yarns to a small extent, but now they are spinning for Blackburn, and on the other hand consume considerable quantities of yarn spun elsewhere.

Proportion of spinning factories 33 per cent., of spinning and weaving 37 per cent., of weaving only 30 per cent.

RETURN showing the State of Employment of the Operatives in COTTON MILLS in the Borough of PRESTON, in each Month from January to December 1863, as per Report of James Dunn, Esq., Chief Constable.

1863.	State of Factories.					State of the Operatives.				
	Total number of Mills.	Full time.		on short time.	Number stopped.	Total number of Hands usually employed.	Number working full time.	Number working short time.	Number not employed in the Mills.	
		With all Hands.	With part of Hands.							
January - - -	83	15	4	29	35	25,734	3,429	9,803	12,502	
February - - -	83	11	9	29	34	25,734	4,500	7,432	13,802	
March - - -	83	12	10	22	39	25,734	4,271	6,548	14,915	
April - - -	83	9	14	22	38	25,734	5,043	5,985	14,706	
May - - -	83	9	19	24	31	25,734	7,402	4,871	13,461	
June - - -	83	12	22	22	27	25,734	9,271	4,204	12,259	
July - - -	83	15	22	21	25	25,734	9,159	4,824	11,751	
August - - -	83	18	12	30	23	25,734	9,928	5,664	11,042	
September - -	83	18	16	25	24	25,734	10,128	4,814	10,792	
October - - -	83	17	12	31	22	25,734	10,208	5,241	10,285	
November - - -	83	20	12	29	22	25,734	8,058	7,630	10,046	
December - - -	83	20	11	31	21	25,734	8,289	7,067	10,378	

ROCHDALE.

The kind of cotton used before the famine was almost exclusively American, the spinners of coarser numbers finding it better to use the "waste" of American cotton than Surat cotton itself.

The proportion of spinning factories is 50 per cent., of spinning and weaving factories 20 per cent., and of weaving factories 30 per cent.

The counts of yarns spun are from 18 s to 70 s.

RETURN showing the State of Employment of the Operatives in COTTON MILLS in the Borough of ROCHDALE, in each Month from January to December 1863, as per Report of W. C. Sylvester, Esq., Chief Constable.

1863.	State of Factories.					State of the Operatives.			
	Total number of Mills.	Full time.		on short time.	Number stopped.	Total number of Hands usually employed.	Number working full time.	Number working short time.	Number not employed in the Mills.
		With all Hands.	With part of Hands.						
January - -	42	11	6	6	19	6,931	911	1,255	4,765
February - -	42	11	6	6	19	6,931	366	1,613	4,952
March - - -	42	12	7	4	19	6,931	1,405	1,245	4,281
April - - -	42	12	7	5	18	6,931	1,400	1,250	4,281
May - - -	42	10	8	5	19	6,931	1,846	976	4,109
June - - -	42	11	6	7	18	6,931	2,171	1,118	3,642
July - - -	42	11	6	7	18	6,931	2,092	1,163	3,676
August - -	42	11	6	7	18	6,931	2,178	1,169	3,584
September - -	42	10	6	6	20	6,931	1,586	1,289	4,056
October - -	42	10	6	6	20	6,931	1,586	1,289	4,056
November - -	42	9	8	8	17	6,931	1,090	1,251	4,590
December - -	42	7	7	10	18	6,931	581	1,706	4,644

ROCHDALE, NEIGHBOURHOOD OF.

The same remark as to kind of cotton used and the counts of yarns spun as at Rochdale.

The proportion of spinning factories is 50 per cent., of spinning and weaving 40 per cent., and of weaving factories 10 per cent.

RETURN showing the State of Employment of the Operatives in COTTON MILLS within two miles outside the Borough of ROCHDALE, in each Month (with the exception of the Months of July and September) from January to December 1863, as per Report of Mr. Superintendent Pickering.

1863.	State of Factories.					State of the Operatives.			
	Total number of Mills.	Full time.		on short time.	Number stopped.	Total number of Hands usually employed.	Number working full time.	Number working short time.	Number not employed in the Mills.
		With all Hands.	With part of Hands.						
January - - -	50	3	6	12	29	6,210	1,636	1,159	3,415
February - - -	50	3	7	10	30	6,210	1,098	1,141	3,971
March - - -	50	4	10	6	30	6,210	1,806	527	3,877
April - - -	50	7	10	8	25	6,210	934	1,682	3,594
May - - -	50	6	13	7	24	6,210	2,427	531	3,252
June - - -	50	8	11	4	27	6,210	1,739	423	4,048
July - - -	50	No return for this month.							
August - - -	50	7	13	4	26	6,210	2,192	407	3,611
September - - -	50	No return for this month.							
October - - -	50	9	7	10	24	6,210	1,506	1,418	3,286
November - - -	50	5	10	7	28	6,210	1,350	1,091	3,769
December - - -	50	5	8	10	27	6,214	1,078	1,367	3,765

The census recently taken for the Rochdale Union, a larger area than is included in the borough, shewed that out of 13,141 operatives, 5,240 were working, 190 have left the district, and 2,347 have succeeded in obtaining employment in other occupations; 189 were not visited, which leaves a balance of 5,175, and as 3,593 persons were relieved by the committee, there would still be a large number either relieved by the Board of Guardians or dependent upon members of their families who are working.

I have a return from the district of Bluepits in the Rochdale Union, and it appears that out of 226 persons reported to be out of employ, 86 persons, or 37 per cent., have left the district or found employment in other occupations; this shows the extent to which the numbers in the last column may be subject to reduction.

SALFORD.

The remarks appended to the Manchester return apply equally to Salford.

RETURN showing the State of Employment of the Operatives in COTTON MILLS within the Borough of SALFORD (which consists of the Salford, Broughton, and Pendleton districts), in each Month from January to December 1863, as per Report of James Taylor, Esq., Chief Constable.

1863.	State of Factories.				State of the Operatives.			
	Total number of Mills.	Total number on full time.	Number on short time.	Number stopped.	Total number of Hands usually employed.	Number working full time.	Number working short time.	Number not employed in the Mills.
January - - -	35	14	14	7	8,492	2,581	3,664	2,247
February - - -	35	14	13	8	8,492	2,803	3,134	2,555
March - - -	35	12	17	6	8,492	2,183	3,594	2,715
April - - -	35	13	14	8	8,492	2,564	3,201	2,727
May - - -	35	16	11	8	8,492	3,126	2,752	2,614
June - - -	35	17	10	8	8,492	3,126	2,721	2,645
July - - -	35	17	11	7	8,492	3,214	2,679	2,599
August - - -	35	21	8	6	8,492	3,516	2,634	2,292
September - -	35	19	9	7	8,492	3,386	2,558	2,548
October - - -	35	21	7	7	8,492	4,309	1,908	2,275
November - -	35	21	7	7	8,492	3,876	2,265	2,351
December - - -	35	14	13	8	8,492	4,433	1,756	2,303

STALEYBRIDGE.

The remarks appended to the Ashton-under-Lyne return apply equally to Staleybridge.

RETURN showing the State of Employment of the Operatives in COTTON MILLS within the Borough of STALEYBRIDGE, in each Month from January to December 1863, as per Report of D. Chadwick, Esq., Chief Constable.

1863.	State of Factories.					State of the Operatives.			
	Total number of Mills.	Full time.		on short time.	Number stopped.	Total number of Hands usually employed.*	Number working full time.	Number working short time.	Number not employed in the Mills.
		With all Hands.	With part of Hands.						
January - -	39	8	6	14	11	10,404	2,267	3,086	5,051
February - -	39	5	8	16	10	10,404	2,055	2,580	5,769
March - -	39	5	11	12	11	10,404	1,455	3,041	5,908
April - - -	39	3	12	18	6	10,404	1,844	2,440	6,120
May - - -	39	2	26	6	5	10,404	1,893	2,726	5,785
June - - -	39	6	10	17	6	10,404	2,848	2,533	5,023
July - - -	39	2	13	11	13	10,404	2,601	2,714	5,089
August - -	39	2	10	9	18	10,404	1,976	3,105	5,323
September - -	39	6	11	14	8	10,404	2,506	3,567	4,331
October - -	39	6	7	17	9	10,404	2,551	3,544	4,300
November - -	39	4	6	21	8	10,404	2,171	4,075	4,158
December - -	39	4	10	17	8	10,404	3,036	3,408	3,960

* As per Factory Inspector's Returns.

WORSLEY, PENDLETON, &c.

A great variety of yarns and goods are manufactured in this district, both in spinning and in weaving.

RETURN showing the State of Employment of the Operatives in COTTON MILLS in WORSLEY, PENDLETON, CRUMPSALL, BLACKLEY, HEATON NORRIS, REDDITCH, BARTON, PRESTWICH, LEVENSHULME, WILMSLOW, BRADFORD, OPENSHAW, GORTON, NEWTON, and FAILSWORTH, in each Month from January to December 1863, as per Report of Mr. Superintendent Chadwick.

1863.	State of Factories.					State of the Operatives.			
	Total number of Mills.	Full time.		on short time.	Number stopped.	Total number of Hands usually employed.	Number working full time.	Number working short time.	not in the Mills.
		With all Hands.	With part of Hands.						
January - - -	58	13	11	16	18	12,482	2,531	3,072	6,879
February - - -	58	11	12	18	17	12,504	2,467	3,363	6,674
March - - -	58	12	13	18	15	12,520	2,752	3,224	6,544
April - - -	60	15	13	15	17	12,757	3,167	3,712	6,578
May - - -	60	16	17	14	13	12,861	4,079	2,612	6,170
June - - -	61	16	20	13	12	12,813	4,234	2,676	5,903
July - - -	61	16	20	14	11	12,788	4,314	2,768	5,706
August - - -	61	14	20	14	13	12,851	4,730	2,461	5,661
September - -	61	17	21	11	12	12,831	5,698	1,897	5,235
October - - -	62	17	21	13	11	12,888	5,698	2,073	5,117
November - -	62	17	22	12	11	12,953	5,596	2,365	4,995
December - -	58	12	17	9	20	12,482	3,083	2,867	6,532

The variation of the time of working can be traced through these several returns, the more prominent facts being the following:—

- At Accrington, the mills were well occupied in the latter part of the year, very few hands being unemployed.
- At Bacup, employment improved up to August.
- At Blackburn, there has been a considerable improvement in the factories working full time, though a check commenced in November.
- At Bury the state of things was better up to October, when the time worked began to diminish.
- At Glossop, no mills are on full time.
- At Haslingden trade has been brisk.
- At Heywood and at Oldham, the time improved up to October, since which time it has decreased.

At Over Darwen, the mills were well employed, and but few persons were receiving relief. There has been a want of some classes of hands in this neighbourhood.

At Preston, work is better than in January 1863, but there still a large number of persons in the receipt of relief.

It will also be remarked that the places in which trade has been most brisk, are those places in which a middling class of cotton was generally used, with which it was usual to mix waste, and in which waste is used now to a greater extent than formerly.

I now propose to trace the time of working at the twenty places named, for the months of January, March, June, September and December last.

JANUARY 1863.

	State of Factories.					State of Operatives.			
	Total number of Mills.	Full time.		Number on short time.	Number stopped.	Total number of Hands usually employed.	Number working full time.	Number working short time.	Number not employed in the Mills.
		With all Hands.	With part of Hands.						
Accrington - - -	37	5	16	10	6	6,065	3,747	1,403	915
Ashton - - -	36	5	3	8	20	10,856	1,263	3,111	6,482
Bacup - - -	56	2	4	12	38	6,156	660	1,592	3,904
Blackburn - - -	82	17	30	8	27	24,480	10,434	2,512	11,534
Bury Division - -	41	9	5	13	14	7,324	1,582	2,568	3,174
Dukinfield - - -	20	5	1	8	6	4,580	1,061	1,573	1,946
Glossop - - -	12	2	—	3	7	6,142	118	112	5,912
Haslingden - - -	47	5	12	17	13	4,538	1,778	1,444	1,316
Heywood - - -	58	10	18	23	7	7,457	2,015	1,838	3,604
Manchester - - -	85	20	17	24	24	24,365	8,016	5,586	10,763
Mossley - - -	21	—	—	—	—	5,060	1,028	1,923	2,109
Mottram, &c. - - -	34	12	4	11	7	8,586	1,216	2,517	4,853
Oldham - - -	112	23	16	46	27	18,998	5,270	9,085	4,643
Over Darwen - - -	42	8	12	15	7	8,078	4,354	2,030	1,694
Preston - - -	83	15	4	29	35	25,734	3,429	9,803	12,502
Rochdale - - -	42	11	6	6	19	6,931	911	1,255	4,765
Rochdale Neighbd.	50	3	6	12	29	6,210	1,636	1,159	3,415
Salford - - -	35	14	—	14	7	8,492	2,581	3,664	2,247
Staleybridge - - -	39	8	6	14	11	10,524	2,267	3,086	5,171
Worsley - - -	58	13	11	16	18	12,482	2,531	3,072	6,879
	990	187	171	289	322	213,058	55,897	59,353	97,828

MARCH 1863.

	State of Factories.					State of the Operatives.			
	Total number of Mills.	Full time.		on short time.	Number stopped.	Total number of Hands usually employed.	Number working full time.	Number working short time.	Number not employed in the Mills.
		With all Hands.	With part of Hands.						
Accrington - -	37	7	18	7	5	6,065	3,481	1,820	764
Ashton - -	36	5	4	8	19	10,856	1,738	2,773	6,345
Bacup - -	56	2	3	7	44	6,156	295	821	5,040
Blackburn - -	82	17	29	7	29	24,480	9,797	2,927	11,766
Bury District - -	41	14	3	11	13	7,324	1,945	2,337	3,042
Dukinfield - -	20	5	3	6	6	4,580	1,140	1,466	1,974
Glossop - -	12	1	2	2	7	6,142	131	41	5,970
Haslingden - -	47	7	16	15	9	4,538	1,907	1,444	1,187
Heywood - -	58	7	19	24	8	7,457	1,813	2,219	3,425
Manchester - -	85	19	18	21	27	24,365	7,587	5,519	11,259
Mossley - -	-	-	-	-	-	5,060	415	2,567	2,078
Mottram, &c. - -	34	12	5	9	8	8,586	1,081	1,596	5,909
Oldham - -	112	22	25	36	29	18,998	4,564	6,085	8,349
Over Darwen - -	42	10	14	12	6	8,078	5,906	713	1,457
Preston - -	83	12	10	22	39	25,734	4,271	6,548	14,915
Rochdale - -	42	12	7	4	19	6,931	1,405	1,245	4,281
Rochdale Neighbd. - -	50	4	10	6	30	6,210	1,806	527	3,877
Salford - -	35	12	12	17	6	8,492	2,183	3,594	2,715
Staleybridge - -	39	5	11	12	11	10,524	1,455	3,041	6,028
Worsley, &c. - -	58	12	13	18	15	12,520	2,752	3,224	6,544
Total - -	969	185	210	244	230	213,096	55,672	50,507	106,917

JUNE 1863.

	State of Factories.					State of the Operatives.			
	Total number of Mills.	Full time.		on short time.	Number stopped.	Total number of Hands usually employed.	Number working full time.	Number working short time.	Number not employed in the Mills.
		With all Hands.	With part of Hands.						
Accrington - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ashton - -	37	6	7	5	19	10,856	1,886	2,372	6,598
Bacup - -	56	6	24	10	26	6,156	1,993	1,061	3,102
Blackburn - -	82	24	27	4	27	24,480	14,634	1,541	8,275
Bury District - -	41	13	4	11	13	7,324	1,835	2,602	2,887
Dukinfield - -	20	3	5	5	7	4,580	1,161	803	2,616
Glossop - -	12	1	1	3	7	6,142	131	38	5,973
Haslingden - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Heywood - -	60	14	28	13	5	7,457	3,976	582	2,899
Manchester - -	85	29	22	13	21	24,365	10,546	3,808	10,011
Mossley - -	-	-	-	-	-	5,060	846	2,208	2,006
Mottram, &c. - -	34	15	5	7	7	8,586	1,373	2,182	5,031
Oldham - -	112	36	39	22	15	18,998	11,743	4,720	2,535
Over Darwen - -	44	16	18	6	4	8,078	6,729	354	995
Preston - -	83	12	22	22	27	25,734	9,271	4,204	12,259
Rochdale - -	42	11	6	7	18	6,931	2,171	1,118	3,642
Rochdale Neighbd. - -	50	8	11	4	27	6,210	1,739	423	4,048
Salford - -	35	17	17	10	8	8,492	3,126	2,721	2,645
Staleybridge - -	39	6	10	17	6	10,524	2,848	2,533	5,143
Worsley, &c. - -	61	16	20	13	12	12,813	4,234	2,676	5,903
Total - -	883	233	239	172	239	202,786	80,272	85,946	86,568

SEPTEMBER 1863.

	State of Factories.					State of Operatives.			
	Total number of Mills.	Full time.		on short time.	Number stopped.	Total number of Hands usually employed.	Number working full time.	Number working short time.	Number not employed in the Mills.
		With all Hands.	With part of Hands.						
Accrington - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ashton - - -	37	8	9	4	16	10,856	2,648	2,370	5,838
Bacup - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blackburn - - -	82	33	13	6	25	24,480	14,138	1,365	8,977
Bury District - - -	41	19	7	8	7	7,324	3,080	1,754	2,490
Dukinfield - - -	20	7	3	2	8	4,580	1,457	600	2,523
Glossop - - -	12	2	6	2	2	6,142	459	42	5,641
Haslingden - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Heywood - - -	60	12	31	13	4	7,457	4,061	944	2,452
Manchester - - -	85	28	29	12	16	24,365	12,351	2,441	9,573
Mossley - - -	-	-	-	-	-	5,060	1,817	1,089	2,154
Mottram, &c. - - -	34	16	4	7	7	8,586	2,356	1,306	4,924
Oldham - - -	118	31	41	25	21	19,779	11,179	2,857	5,743
Over Darwen - - -	44	25	13	4	2	8,078	7,429	319	330
Preston - - -	83	18	16	25	24	25,734	10,128	4,814	10,792
Rochdale - - -	42	10	6	6	20	6,931	1,586	1,289	4,056
Rochdale Neighbd.	-	-	No	Return for this month.			-	-	-
Salford - - -	35	19	-	9	7	8,492	3,386	2,558	2,548
Staleybridge - - -	39	6	11	14	8	10,524	2,506	3,567	4,451
Worsley, &c. - - -	61	17	21	11	12	12,831	5,698	1,897	5,236
	793	251	215	148	179	191,219	84,279	29,212	77,728

DECEMBER 1863.

	State of Factories.					State of Operatives.			
	Total number of Mills.	Full time.		on short time.	Number stopped.	Total number of Hands usually employed.	Number working full time.	Number working short time.	Number not employed in the Mills.
		With all Hands.	With part of Hands.						
Accrington - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ashton - - -	37	6	6	8	17	10,856	2,128	2,772	5,956
Bacup - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blackburn - - -	82	29	18	6	23	24,480	13,428	816	10,236
Bury - - -	41	9	5	11	16	7,324	1,387	2,477	3,460
Dukinfield - - -	20	5	4	3	8	4,580	1,127	524	2,929
Glossop - - -	12	-	5	3	4	6,142	595	105	5,442
Haslingden - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Heywood - - -	60	6	34	13	7	7,457	2,078	1,756	3,623
Manchester - - -	86	18	36	15	17	24,365	10,488	2,945	10,932
Mossley - - -	-	-	-	-	-	5,060	1,385	1,751	1,924
Mottram, &c. - - -	34	11	3	15	5	8,586	1,126	2,549	4,911
Oldham - - -	118	22	39	43	14	19,779	7,404	6,577	5,798
Over Darwen - - -	44	29	11	2	2	8,078	7,629	119	330
Preston - - -	83	20	11	31	21	25,734	8,289	7,067	10,378
Rochdale - - -	42	7	7	10	18	6,931	581	1,706	4,644
Rochdale Neighbd.	50	5	8	10	27	6,210	1,078	1,369	3,765
Salford - - -	35	14	-	13	8	8,492	4,433	1,756	2,303
Staleybridge - - -	39	4	10	17	8	10,524	3,036	3,408	4,080
Worsley, &c. - - -	58	12	17	9	20	12,482	3,083	2,867	6,532
	841	197	214	209	221	197,080	69,275	40,562	87,243

The following calculations will show more exactly the variation in each of the months quoted:

Centesimal proportion of Factories :—

	Jan.	March.	June.	Sept.	Dec.
Working full time with all hands - -	20	20	27	31	25
Working full time with part of hands -	17	21	27	27	24
Working short time -	29	25	19	18	25
Not working - -	34	34	27	23	26
Centesimal ¹ proportion of hands :—					
Working full time -	26	26	40	44	35
Working short time -	27	24	18	17	22
Not working in the mills - -	47	50	42	39	43

It will be seen from the above figures that the number of factories working full time with all and part of hands, had increased 59 per cent. between January and September, and the number of hands fully employed, were 68 per cent. more in the latter than in the former month; and that in September very nearly one half of the cotton operatives were upon full time.

WAGES.

Very careful calculations appear to have been made of the probable loss of wages of the operatives during the crisis, at page 14 of Mr. Maclure's excellent statistical returns, to which I have already referred. These returns are prepared by the several local committees, and exhibit the estimate of the loss sustained by those entirely out of work, and by those employed upon short time; the basis of this estimate being the ordinary rate of wages in the jurisdiction of each local committee. It has been generally estimated that the average wages of persons employed in cotton factories, that is, taking into consideration every kind of factory and class of material used in the trade, was 10s. 6d. per week, but I find that the calculations in Mr. Maclure's returns give a general average of nearly 11s. 6d. per head per week, although the details at pp. 4 and 5 of the same return, of the estimated loss of wages in the district of each local committee, are very various. The calculations in Mr. Maclure's returns are not confined to *cotton* mills, but include the wages at printworks, bleachworks, and other trades in which the wages are on the average higher than in factories. Taking, however, the prevailing rates in the different unions in Lancashire, the variations will be found to be less. The following is a statement showing the amount of wages per head per week in 19 of the unions comprised in Mr. Maclure's returns which are

in my district, and calculated upon the estimate of loss of wages in that return.

Ashton-under-Lyne	-	-	13s.	per head per week.
Barton-upon-Irwell	-	-	6s.	"
Blackburn	-	-	17s.	"
Bury	-	-	10s.	"
Chorley	-	-	10s.	"
Chorlton	-	-	10s.	"
Clytheroe*				
Fylds (the)*				
Garstang	-	-	10s.	"
Glossop	-	-	10s.	"
Haslingden	-	-	9s.	"
Lancaster	-	-	7s.	"
Manchester	-	-	9s.	"
Oldham	-	-	10s.	"
Preston	-	-	13s.	"
Prestwich	-	-	13s.	"
Rochdale	-	-	10s.	"
Salford	-	-	17s.	"
Todmorden	-	-	9s.	"

The total number of persons reported in Mr. Maclure's tables for the last week of the month of December last (p. 14) to have been entirely out of work was 149,038 persons; and the estimated loss of wages by them, and of those who were working short time, was 122,428*l.*, thus giving an estimated loss at the rate of 6,366,316*l.* per annum. Enormous, however, as this loss is, it is no exaggeration, for it does not show the loss sustained by those of the operatives who are in full work, nor all the loss sustained by those who are upon short time.

It must be borne in mind that the above calculations are based upon "the rate of wages," the only basis upon which so general an estimate could be founded.

A standard rate of wages for spinning and weaving has been agreed upon in most districts between the masters and the operatives. The various rates for spinning the different counts or numbers of yarn are fixed, in due proportion to the different kinds of yarn to be spun; the finer the yarn, or, as it is designated, the higher the number of the count is, so much more twist is required, and consequently so much more time is consumed in the spinning. A similar scale is fixed for weaving and other processes, regard being had to the length and breadth of the cloth to be woven, its lightness or heaviness, &c.; and thus a variation in the rate of wages is a very

* There is clearly an error in the Returns (p. 14.) with reference to these two places.

simple matter, when agreed upon, for it consists only of so much per cent. above or below the standard rate.

Where the number of operatives has been ascertained in any locality, with the proportion of those entirely out of work, and of those working only 2, 3, 4, or 5 days per week, an estimate of the loss of the wages is a calculation readily made, but it is by no means easy to estimate the loss *in the actual receipts* of the operatives. The sums actually received in a cotton factory by each of those who work by weight or piece (a large proportion of the whole) vary considerably, because the sum earned depends upon the capacity of each individual operative, and upon the nature of the material operated upon. Each operative receives, at the standard rate of wages, as modified by agreement, the value of the work performed by him, being more or less according to the circumstances above mentioned; and although it is quite clear that no general estimate of the loss sustained on account of the badness of the material could have been made by the Manchester Committee, it is nevertheless the cause of a very important diminution of earnings, and ought to be duly considered when speaking of the number of operatives upon full work, or removed from the relief lists on the ground of having obtained employment.

In my Report for the half year ended the 30th of April last I stated that, from accounts which I had received, the diminution of earnings of those employed upon Surat cotton would average between 20 and 30 per cent. below what they would have earned upon American cotton; but I have since that date pursued the enquiry further, and I propose to give some statements, which have been made to me upon unquestionable authority, showing the actual difference in wages earned upon different classes of cotton.

The position of the operatives in regard to the amount of their earnings is very much better now than it was this time last year. Machinery has improved, the material is better understood, and the operatives are able better to overcome the difficulties they had to contend with at first. I remember being in a sewing school at Preston last spring, when two young women, who had been sent to work at a weaving shed the day before, upon the representation of the manufacturer that they could earn 4s. per week, returned to the school to be re-admitted, complaining that they could not have earned 1s. per week. I have been informed of "self-acting minders," as they are technically called, men who manage a pair of self-acting mules, earning at the end of a fortnight's full work 8s. 11d., and that from this sum was deducted the rent of the house, the manufacturer, however, returning half the rent as a gift. The minders took away the sum of 6s. 11d. In many places the self-acting minders ranged from 5s. to 9s. per

week, and the weavers from 2s. to 6s. per week during the latter part of 1862.

I shall be able to show that at the present time a much more healthy state of things exists, although there is still a great decrease in the earnings in most districts. This loss of earnings is patent to those who are conversant with their localities. It has been mentioned to me in various ways. It has been said to me that some would be "clemmed" if they did not have something better to work upon, as they could not earn even as much bread as they could eat; and again, "what they complain of is the hard work and small wages which they obtain in working the Surat in comparison with the American cotton." A schoolmaster, knowing well the operative classes, writes to me, "There seems to be an impression that the districts have tided over the worst part of the distress, though the wages at present received by those in work is only equal to what those receive who are working at the expense of the Relief Committee, and in many cases I knew it to be much less."

Schoolmasters generally account for the diminution in the number of their scholars in 1863, from the Relief Committee having ceased to pay the school fees of any children whose parents obtained employment, even though the parents be unable to pay them; for instance, a schoolmaster at Oldham writes—

"Although the mills are now generally working, yet the income of the parents is such that it will scarcely provide the necessaries of life, and many children who would otherwise be at school, are kept at home from the inability of their parents to pay for them."

Another at Rochdale says—

"It is a fact that the employed are in many respects worse off than the unemployed, and it is an impossibility for them out of the pittance they now get, to pay the small amount which is required for schooling."

There are several causes which have tended to the reduction of earnings, besides the shorter staple of the Surat cotton and its dirty condition; for instance, it is now the practice to mix "waste" largely with Surat, which consequently increases the difficulties of the spinner or minder. The threads, from their shortness of fibre, are more liable to break in the drawing out of the mule and in the twisting of the yarn, and the mule cannot be kept so continuously in motion. In some cases the spinners are required to spin weft on twist mules, which is said to make a difference of 2s. 6d. per week to the spinner. Then, from the great attention required in watching the threads in weaving, many weavers can only mind one loom, and very few can mind more than two looms. And again, I am informed that the earnings of the weavers are

much reduced from the employment of substitutes for flour as sizing for warps. This sizing, which gives weight to the yarn, renders it hard and brittle. Each thread of the warp in the loom passes through a part of the loom called "a heald," which consists of strong threads to keep the warp in its proper place, and the hard state of the warp causes the threads of the heald to break frequently; and it is said to take a weaver five minutes to tie up the threads every time they break; and a weaver has to piece these ends at least ten times as often as formerly, thus reducing the productive powers of the loom in the working hours; and time so lost cannot under any circumstances be recovered.

Another difficulty the weavers have sometimes to contend with is, that they are expected to produce well finished cloth from inferior materials, and are subject to fine for the flaws in their work, which they require all their attention and skill to prevent in the course of the weaving.

When an advance was made in the rate of wages a few years since, it was generally understood that the advance was due to the good times, and there was a kind of understanding that if the prosperity of those days did not continue the advance would be subject to revision. In many instances this understanding has been acted upon; and there has been a direct reduction of 5, $7\frac{1}{2}$, and 10 per cent. upon the wages of the operatives; but where this reduction has not been made, those operatives who are on weekly wages earn now the same as they did before the crisis. At some mills an allowance has been made for the difficulties of the spinners by paying a part of their loss; in other places by calculating their wages as if they were spinning higher counts of yarn; but in the majority of cases the operative has to make the best of his material, and to earn the best wages he can at the ordinary rates, for the manufacturer is not often in a position, with reference to the present condition of trade, to make an advance to his hands.

The results of these causes I now propose to lay before you, by giving the actual earnings of operatives in December 1863, compared with their actual earnings in 1860 and 1861, collected chiefly by Mr. Oram; and from the careful manner in which they have been prepared, and from other communications which I have received, I think they may be fully relied upon. The earnings, of course, are for full time (60 hours per week) for both years.

In a district in which the finest yarn is spun, it appears that the spinners suffer an indirect reduction of 15 per cent. in consequence of the change from South Sea Island to Egyptian cotton. The card room hands have harder work, but their earnings are not reduced.

In an extensive district, in many parts of which waste is largely used as a mixture with Surat, I have received the

following several statements of the wages in 1863, as compared with 1860:—

“The spinners have had a reduction of 5 per cent., and have lost from 20 to 30 per cent. in addition, through working Surat and waste.”

“The weavers are reduced from 4 looms to 2 looms. In 1860 they averaged 5*s.* 7*d.* per loom, in 1863, only 3*s.* 4*d.*”

In another district, I understand that—

“The spinners have had a direct reduction of 5 per cent., and an indirect, through inferior material, of from 15 to 20. The fines, which formerly varied from 3*d.* to 6*d.* on American, now run up to from 1*s.* to 3*s.* 6*d.* Both the weavers and cardroom hands have had a reduction of 5 per cent. The weavers on 4 looms have sustained a loss equal to 6*s.* per week.”

“The weavers and helpers were reduced 5 per cent. in 1861. Some firms have brought out new sorts of cloth, and paid below the usual rate, but the majority have maintained the usual prices.”

“In 1860 the average was 5*s.* 7*d.* per loom, in 1861 5*s.* 3*d.* and in 1863 3*s.* 7*d.*”

The following very full particulars have been given to me by Mr. Oram of a district now using Egyptian cotton mixed with Surat. In this district prior to the crisis very little yarn was spun above 40*s.*, but now several of the factory occupiers spin 46*s.* to 50*s.*, and even as high as 60*s.*; whilst the average in 1860 was 34*s.* weft, and 28*s.* twist.

“The strippers, grinders, and men in the scutching room formerly averaged 15*s.*, and some of the manufacturers have made no reduction, whilst others have reduced 1*s.*, 1*s.* 6*d.*, and 2*s.*, bringing the average down to 13*s.* 6*d.*

“The rovers, slubbers, drawers, &c. are generally paid by the hank, and earned in 1860 from 12*s.* to 15*s.* per week; some earn the same now, whilst others lose from 10 to 15 per cent. through inferior cotton and the reduction of speed. Some firms are paying weekly wages to these hands at the rate of 11*s.* or 12*s.* per week.

“The wages for throstle spinners in 1860 was 13*s.* 6*d.* per week for an adult or four-side spinner, and younger hands on two or three sides received in proportion. One side has been taken away in many mills and extra hands employed, the hands receiving the same rate of wages as in 1860, according to the number of sides, but they have as much work to do on three sides with bad cotton as they had with four formerly.

“The throstle doffers have been reduced, the wages in 1860 being from 7*s.* 6*d.* to 9*s.*; some have reduced them 1*s.*, others 1*s.* 6*d.* per week; and the throstle jobbers have been reduced about the same.

“The average of the mule spinners, which was in 1860 18*s.* to 25*s.*, now averages from 10*s.* to 18*s.* per week, caused, in addition to inferior cotton, by the reduction of the speed of the mule to put an extra amount of twist in the yarn, which in ordinary times would be paid for according to list.

"The piecers in this district are generally paid by the 100lbs., the same as the minders, and have suffered in the same proportion.

"The creelers, having standing wages, have generally been reduced from 9s. to 8s., 7s. 6d., and 7s. per week.

"In 1860 the weavers received from 14s. to 17s. per week, on three looms, averaging 5s per loom, whilst at the present time they average under 3s. 4d. per loom.

"Some of the manufacturers are paying 8d., 9d., and 10d. for pieces for which they formerly paid 1s."

The next statement has been compiled by Mr. Oram from two separate communications of the earnings of operatives of various mills in the same locality, and it shows in a striking manner how the operatives, even when upon full time, must suffer:

		1860.		1863.	
		s.	d.	s.	d.
Mill A.	Self-acting minders	-	28 0	19	0
B.	Self-acting minders	-	20 0	14	0
	Weavers - -	-	11 6	6	0
C.	Hand mules - -	-	31 0	25	0
D.	2-loom weavers	-	11 6	7	3
	3-loom weavers	-	17 9	10	0
E.	2-loom weavers	-	11 6	10	6
	3-loom weavers	-	17 3	15	0
F.	2-loom weavers	-	11 3	7	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
G.	2-loom weavers	-	12 0	8	3
H.	2-loom weavers	-	11 6	7	6
I.	Self-acting minders	-	reduction of 17 per cent.		
K.	Self-acting minders	-	30 0	26	0
L.	Self-acting minders	-	20 0	16	0
M.	Weavers - -	-	{ 3 looms 14 0	{ 2 looms 4 days 4 6	
				and gift of 2 6	
N.	Self-acting minders	-	24 0	19	0
	Hand-mule spinners	-	25 0	22	0
O.	Self-acting minders	-	22 0	16	0
P.	Self-acting minders	-	20 0	15	6
Q.	Self-acting minders -	-	{ Equal to 1860, with the exception of 10 per cent reduction.		
R.	Self-acting minders	-	28 0	27	0
S.	Self-acting minders	-	19 0	12	0
	Weavers	-	12 0	9	0
T.	Self-acting minders	-	23 0	17	6
U.	Self-acting minders	-	{ Equal to 1860, with exception of 10 per cent.		
V.	Self-acting minders	-	22 0	11	0
W.	Self-acting minders	-	21 0	15	6
X.	Self-acting minders	-	24 0	15	6
Y.	Self-acting minders	-	25 0	15	0

As to another district Mr. Oram reports to me:—

“In this district the card-room hands and weavers have sustained a direct reduction of 10 per cent. Some of the spinners have only obtained 4s. for 60 hours, and an overlooker of power looms received only a few days since 7s. 6d. for 120 hours, being poundage on what the weavers received. At another mill they earn one week within about 15 per cent. of what they did from American, and another they do not get as much by 60 or 70 per cent.

“The following is at a new mill which has not been working more than five years.

“Self-acting minders.

1860, for 60 hours.

£2	0	6	
0	15	3	Piecers.
<hr/>			
1	5	3	
<hr/>			

1863, for 56 hours.

£1	5	6	
0	14	9	Piecers.
<hr/>			
0	10	9	
<hr/>			

“Very few of the card-room hands are affected by the Surat cotton, as they receive day pay. The jackframe tenters lose about 15 per cent.; and in those mills where only Surat is used, without waste, the loss to the weavers is 20 per cent.”

I have received the following statement of the wages earned in 1861 and in 1863, in a very important district, in which American cotton used chiefly to be manufactured, and in which they now substitute Egyptian mixed with Surat.

					1861.	1863.
					<hr/>	<hr/>
					s. d.	s. d.
Rovers*	-	-	-	-	11 6	8 0
Drawers*	-	-	-	-	9 6	6 0
Winders	-	-	-	-	10 6	7 0
Warpers	-	-	-	-	13 6	10 6
Self-acting minders	-	-	-	-	19 6	14 0
Piecers*	-	-	-	-	13 0	7 6
Creelers*	-	-	-	-	6 0	5 0
Two-loom weavers	-	-	-	-	10 0	6 6
Three-loom weavers	-	-	-	-	13 6	9 6

In another mill the earnings were for

Self-acting minders	-	-	25 11	18 0
---------------------	---	---	-------	------

The following returns are from five different mills, kindly drawn up by the manufacturers, which are the more valuable because the precise quality of cotton used, and the counts spun, is stated in each case.

* These operatives receive daily pay .

Mill 1.

1861. American cotton.

1863. Surat cotton.

Piece Work.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Mule spinners per week -	1	7	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	18	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
Two loom weavers „ -	0	10	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	8	0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Three loom weavers will earn one half more.						
Warpers - - -	1	9	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	1	2	9 $\frac{3}{4}$
Winders - - -	0	11	3	0	9	9 $\frac{1}{2}$

Day wages are the same in 1863 as in 1861, varying from 17. 10s. for overlookers and other hands, from 12s. to 9s. for doffers per week. The counts spun in 1861 were weft 28 s, warp 20 s, and in 1863, weft 29s, warp 21 s.

The Surat cotton has been spun finer than the American, customers wanting their cloth (calico) to have the same “picks” in one fourth of an inch, and to weigh lighter, so that the retailers would be better able to meet the prices at so much per yard.

Mill 2.

1861. American cotton.

1863. Surat cotton.

Piece Work.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Self-acting minders per week -	1	2	0	0	17	8
Two loom weavers „ -	0	11	8	0	8	9
Three loom weavers „ -	0	17	6	0	12	9
Warpers - „ -	1	7	0	1	4	0
Winders - „ -	0	11	0	0	10	0

Day Wages.

1861, per week, from 12s. to 8s. 6d. 1863, per week from 12s. to 8s. It is stated that the reduction in day wages is less than is general in the district, and that very few are paid by day at this factory. At another mill, belonging to the same firm, the reduction is ten per cent. on all women and children, but no reduction in the wages of male adults.

The counts they spin are 20s and 30 s.

Mill 3.

1861. American cotton.—1863. American, Surat, Egyptian, and Smyrna.

				1861.			1863.		
Piece Work.				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Self acting minders	-	per week		1	3	0	1	0	0
Two loom weavers	;	-	„	0	11	0	0	9	0
Three loom weavers	-	-	„	0	16	0	0	13	0
Four loom weavers	-	-	„	1	0	6	0	17	6
Warpers	-	-	„	1	10	0	1	7	0
Day Work.									
Drawers	-	-	„	0	10	6	0	9	6
Throstle piecers	-	-	„	0	10	6	0	9	6
Doffers	-	-	„	0	9	0	0	8	0

Average counts spun. 1861, 19s warp, 24s weft.
„ „ 1863, 18s „ 24s „

Mill 4.

1861. American cotton.

1863. Surat.

Piece Work.

Self acting minders per week	-	1	2	0	0	17	0
Two loom weavers	-	0	10	0	0	8	0
Three loom weavers	-	0	15	0	0	12	0
Warpers	-	0	12	0	0	9	0

Day Wages.

Minders per week - 0 10 0 0 10 0
The rate of day wages is not altered, and is 7s. 6d. per week.

Counts Spun.

From 36 s to 40 s weft. From 20 s to 40 s weft.
„ 32 s warps. 22 s, 28 s, 32 s, warps.

Mill 5.

Piece Work.

1860. American cotton.—1861. American and East Indian.
1863. East India and China.

	1860.			1861.			1863.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Self acting minders, per wk.	1	15	3	1	10	8	1	8	8
Two loom weavers „	0	10	8	0	9	5	0	9	6
Three loom weavers „	0	16	0	0	14	1½	0	14	1
Warpers - „	1	8	2	1	5	3	1	3	7
Winders - „	0	10	6	0	10	9	0	10	8

All kinds of day work are at the same rates for the three dates given, and the difference in their earnings, will be exactly in the ratio of the time worked.

The winders are paid according to the number of throstle spindles they wind for, which will account for their receiving at the same rate, at the periods given.

Counts Spun.

20 s weft and 25 s warp, at all the periods.

Mill 6.

Cotton used.

1861.		1863.	
American and American cotton waste.		Egyptian and Surat.	
		1861.	1863.
Piece Work.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Self-acting minders	- per week	1 9 0	1 5 0
Card room hands (females)	„	0 11 0	0 9 0
Reelers	- „	0 11 0	0 9 0
Day Work.			
Card room hands (male)	- „	0 10 0	0 10 0
Tenters (female)	- „	0 4 6	0 4 6

The rate of both piece and day-work is the same, at both periods. The day wages continue the same, and the difference of the earnings of piece-workers is accounted for by the machinery or rather some part of it, being speeded slower, to enable it to work the Surat and Egyptian cotton.

The numbers spun are from 40 s to 70 s.

Mill 7.

1861.		1863.	
American.		Surat.	
		1861.	1863.
Piece Work.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Self-acting minders	- per week	1 8 0	1 0 0
Day Work.			
Jobbers in card room (male)	„	0 15 6	0 13 6
Tenters of frames (female)	„	0 12 0	0 10 0

They spin $\frac{1}{6}$ th part less from the same machinery of Surat than they did of American cotton. Of American cotton, the self-acting minder was paid at the rate of 1s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per 1,000 hanks, and of Surat 1s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per 1,000 hanks, leaving him the above sums per week, after paying his piecers.

Counts spun, 40 s weft, 32 s warp.

I add another statement from another district in which Surat cotton is used as a substitute for American; it is not the return of the wages earned at one mill, but an estimate of the average of the district:—

	Previous to Blockade.		Since Blockade.		
	s.	d.	s.	d.	
Cotton mixers and blowing room hands, men and women -	11	0	10	6	per week.
Overlookers of ditto -	16	0	15	0	„
Overlookers of carders -	25	0	25	0	„
Carding-engine feeders -	13	6	13	0	„
Drawing room frame tenters (women) -	11	6	10	6	„
Roving frame tenters (women) -	11	6	11	0	„
Throstle spinners (women and girls)	10	0	7	0	„
Throstle jobbers -	11	6	11	3	„
Throstle doffers -	7	0	7	0	„
Bobbin winders (women)* -	12	6	11	0	„
Cop winders (girls and women)* -	8	9	7	0	„
Overlookers of self-acting mules (men) -	31	0	31	0	„
Self-acting minders (spinners)* -	20	0	16	6	„
Creelers -	7	6	7	6	„
Piecers (men and boys) -	13	0	13	0	„
Overlookers of weavers* -	28	3	21	6	„
Four loom weavers* -	15	5	11	10	„
Helpers or tenters (girls and boys)	5	3	4	3	„
Two loom weavers* -	10	4	7	11	„
Warpers (women)* -	14	0	9	0	„
Winders (women and girls)* -	12	0	8	0	„

* These hands are paid by the day or week, the others by piece-work.

Although I have given the actual earnings of the operatives in several mills, it does not follow that they earn the same amount week by week. The operatives are subject to great fluctuation, from the constant experimentalizing of the manufacturers upon different kinds and proportions of cotton and waste in the same mill, the “mixings” as it is called, being frequently changed; and the earnings of the operatives rise and fall with the quality of the cotton mixings; sometimes

they have been within 15 per cent. of former earnings, and then in a week or two, they have fallen from 50 to 60 per cent.

Having thus shown the amount of wages that can be earned by operatives when working full time, I now add some tables of the actual earnings of several families working in their mills for the weekly time specified. They will bear out the statements which have been made to me of the lamentable insufficiency of earnings at the present time.

No. of Family.	Age.	Calling.	Earnings.		-----
			s.	d.	
W. D. - - -	52	Weaver -	3	4	Working 4 days per week.
Wife - - -	49				
Six in family	21	Weaver -	3	4	
	14	„ -	3	4	
	8				
	6				
B. T., a widow -	60	Weaver -	3	8½	Working 3½ days per week.
Five in family	32				
	25	Weaver -	3	8	
	18	„ -	3	9	
	16				
J. H. - - -	26	Weaver -	6	3	Working 3½ days per week.
Wife - - -	25				
Four in family -	4				
	2				
E. C. - - -	35	Weaver -	4	6	Working 4 days per week.
Wife - - -	34				
Six in family	12				
	10				
	4				
	3				
J. K. - - -	49				Working 4 days per week.
Wife - - -	47				
Ten in family	25	Weaver -	4	6	
	23	„ -	4	6	
	18	„ -	4	6	
	14	„ -	3	0	
	11				
	8				
	7				
	5				
E. W. - - -	24	Minder.			Working 6 days.
Wife - - -	25	Reeler -	3	10	
A. W. - - -	35	Twister in -	6	0	Working 4½ days per week.
Nine in family	34				
	15	Weaver -	4	6	
	13	„ -	3	6	
	10				
	8				
	6				
	4				
	2				

No. of Family.	Age.	Calling.	Earnings.	
			s. d.	
B. W. - - -	40	Minder.		
Wife - - -	33			
Six in family	18	Weaver -	3 9	} Working 4½ days.
	16	„ -	3 6	
	14			
	8			
N. H. - - -	28	Weaver -	5 1	Working 5 days.
Four in family	27			
	3			
	1½			
S. D. - - -	38	Minder -	6 6	Working 3 days.
Nine in family	36			
	10			
	8			
	6			
	4			
	2			
	1			
	1			
N. W. - - -	35	Weaver -	11 6	Working 6 days.
Seven in family	35			
	8			
	6			
	5			
	3			
	1			
M. M. - - -	37	Slubber -	7 10	Working 4 days.
Six in family	9			
	8			
	6			
	2			
	6 mos.			
J. H. - - -	28	Weaver -	5 7	Working 5 days.
Four in family	6			
	3			
	2			
F. S. - - -	37	Weaver -	5 0	Working 3 days.
Seven in family	36			
	11			
	7			
	5			
	3			
	1			
J. F. - - -	45	Twister.		
Seven in family	42			
	23	Creeler -	} 4 9½	Working 3 days.
	16	Creeler -		
	11			
	9			
	5			

The above returns are deserving of consideration, for they show that work would become a misfortune in many a family, as it not merely reduces the income, but brings it so low as to be utterly insufficient to provide more than a small portion of their absolute wants, were it not that supplemental relief is granted to operatives when the wages of the family do not reach the sum that would be given to them as relief, if they were all unemployed.

The earnings of the operatives are still dependent for their value upon the price of the main articles of food, and also upon the nature of the food required. It is admitted that factory labour requires a more generous diet than employments of simple drudgery, either in the open air or under cover in a moderate temperature; consequently the comparatively high wages of the cotton operative are consumed in food, which is necessary to supply the great waste of the system which he has to sustain; and it is manifestly unjust to compare the present condition of a cotton operative, now earning from 10s. to 12s. per week for himself and his family, with the agricultural labourer in the South. The cotton operative, when unemployed, has lived and maintained himself in a fair state of health upon a very restricted diet; and this is accounted for by most medical men from the change in the habits of the operatives, in their being now so much in the open air; but the moderate price of food during the crisis, has, doubtless, had much influence upon the health of the operatives, from their having been able to procure so much more food for the same money than they would have done in 1861. I find, from inquiries made as to the contract price of provisions in the principal towns, that there has been a marked decrease in the price of flour and bread; for instance, the contract prices at the Blackburn Workhouse were as follows:—

—		1861.		1862.		1863.	
		s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Bread	- - per score	2	9 $\frac{1}{4}$	2	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	2	0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Flour	- - per sack	40	0	36	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	28	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Oatmeal	- - per load	33	6	30	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	29	9
Beef	- - per lb.	0	4 $\frac{3}{4}$	0	4 $\frac{5}{8}$	0	4 $\frac{3}{4}$
Butter	- - „	0	11 $\frac{5}{8}$	0	11 $\frac{1}{4}$	0	10
Sugar	- - „	0	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	0	4 $\frac{1}{16}$
Tea	- - „	3	1	2	11 $\frac{5}{8}$	2	6 $\frac{3}{4}$
Rice	- - per cwt.	15	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	16	3	15	9

The contract prices at the Oldham Union had nearly the same range:—

—	1861.	1862.	1863.
Bread, per cwt.	14s. to 14s. 10d.	13s. to 15s. 2d.	10s. 6d. to 11s. 9d.
Flour, per load	36s. to 43s.	35s. to 40s.	29s. to 34s.
Oatmeal, per load	34s. to 36s.	30s. to 34s.	29s. to 32s.
Beef (fine), per lb.	7d.	7d.	7d.
Beef (coarse) ,,	5d. to 5½d.	5d.	5d. to 5½d.

In the Rochdale Union the prices were:—

—	1861.	1862.	1863.
Meat, beef and mutton, per lb.	6¾d.	6½d.	7d.
„ „ coarse „	4¾d.	5d.	5d.
Oatmeal, per load, 240 lbs. -	1l. 14s.	1l. 12s.	1l. 6s.
Flour, per sack, 280 lbs. -	2l. 9s.	2l. 0s.	1l. 12s.

In the Haslingden Union the prices were:

—	1861.	1862.	1863.
Meat, Haslingden workhouse	5d.	4½d.	5d.
„ New Church „	4½d.	4d.	5½d.
Oatmeal, per load, 240 lbs. -	1l. 12s.	1l. 11s.	1l. 11s.
Flour „ „ -	1l. 14s.	1l. 16s.	1l. 6s. 6d.
Bread, per score, 20 lbs. -	3s. 4d.	2s. 10d.	2s. 1d.

The contract prices in the Ashton Union were as follows:—

—	1861.	1862.	1863.
Bread, per 4 lbs. - -	7d.	6d.	5d.
Flour, per 280 lbs. -	50s.	48s. 6d.	38s. 6d.
Oatmeal, per 240 lbs. -	35s.	38s. 6d.	30s.
Beef, per lb. - - -	5½d.	5½d.	4¾d.

N.B.—The bread consumed is baked in each workhouse.

At Middleton near Manchester, the contract price of meat, meal, and flour in December 1861, 1862, and 1863, was as follows:—

—	1861.	1862.	1863.
Meat per lb., fine -	7d.	7d.	7d.
" coarse -	5d.	5d.	5½d.
Meal per load, 240 lbs. -	1l. 14s. 6d.	1l. 12s.	1l. 6s.
Flour " " -	2l. 2s.	1l. 15s.	1l. 9s.

The greatly diminished price of bread and flour during the past year must have been of inestimable benefit to the operatives; and in order to show more fully how they are affected by prices, I have obtained some statements, from reliable sources, of the retail prices from shops frequented by operatives in the following towns.

In Blackburn I am informed that the retail prices ranged in the three past years as follows:—

—	1861.	1862.	1863.
Flour, per 20 lbs. weight -	3s. 6d.	2s. 7d.	2s. 2d.
Oatmeal, per 20 lbs. weight	2s. 10d.	2s. 7d.	2s. 2d.
Bacon, per lb. -	8d.	7d.	7d.
Beef, per lb. -	7d.	7d.	7d.
New Butter, per lb. -	1s. 3½d.	1s. 2d.	1s. 3d.

The following were the retail prices at Dukinfield:—

—	1861.	1862.	1863.
Flour, per doz.	1s. 10d. to 2s. 2d.	1s. 8d. to 2s.	1s. 8d. to 2s.
Meal, per 10 lbs.	1s. 6d. to 1s. 8d.	1s. 6d. to 1s. 8d.	1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d.
Beef and mutton, per lb.	6d. to 8½d.	7d. to 8d.	6d. to 8½d.
Potatoes -	1s. 8d.	1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d.	8d. to 1s. 2d.

At Oldham and Staleybridge the retail prices averaged:—

—	1861.	1862.	1863.
Flour, per 280lbs.	40s.	36s. 6d.	33s.
" per doz. -	1s. 10d. to 2s. 4d.	1s. 8d. to 2s. 2d.	1s. 8d. to 1s. 10d.
Oatmeal, per 10lbs.	1s. 5d.	1s. 4d.	1s. 4d.
Bread, per 4 lbs.	7½d.	7d.	5d.

The retail prices at Rochdale and Haslingden were as follows:

At Rochdale:—

—	1861.	1862.	1863.
Bread, per loaf, 4 lbs.	7d.	6d.	6d. to 6½d.
Meat, beef and mutton, per lb.	5½d. to 6d.	6d.	1s. 9d. to 1s. 5d.
Oatmeal, per peck, 12 lbs.	2s. to 1s. 9d.	1s. 11d. to 1s. 7d.	3s. to 2s. 6d.
Flour, per score, 20 lbs.	4s. to 3s. 4d.	3s. 4d. to 2s. 10d.	5d.

At Haslingden:—

—	1861.	1862.	1863.
Meat, beef, and mutton, per lb. -	6d.	5½d.	5½d.
Meal, per score, 20 lbs. -	2s. 11d.	2s. 8d.	2s. 8d.
Flour „ „ -	3s. 10d.	2s. 11d.	2s. 9d.
Bread, per 4 lbs. -	8d.	7d.	7d.

Retail prices in Middleton, near Manchester, of meat, &c such as the operative class purchase; meal, flour, and bread at the same periods:—

—	1861.	1862.	1863.
Meat, per lb. -	*2d.	*2d.	*1¾d.
Meal „ 20 lbs. -	3s. 4d.	3s. 4d.	2s. 11d.
Flour „ 20 lbs. -	3s. 4d.	3s. 4d.	2s. 11d.
Bread, per 4 lb. loaf -	7d.	7d.	6d.

A gentleman well acquainted with the subject points out that there is a wide range in the retail price of flour in the different cotton districts. He says—

“The working classes in Oldham, Ashton, Staleybridge, Mossley, and the neighbourhood are remarkable for their repugnance to flour of a low or inferior quality, the greater part of the consumption being not merely fine, but *very fine*, familiarly known by the name of *fine biscuit flour*, and nearly all the cottages are provided with ovens, so that most of the families bake their own bread.”

* The price of meat seems very low, but I have been assured it is correct.

Another instance has been given to me of a statement having been made as to the dearness of living at Ashton as compared with Burnley; but upon enquiry of one of the principal corn factors who supplied that district with flour, he stated, that the quality of flour purchased by the bakers of Burnley, would not sell in the Ashton district, being of so much lower a quality than is consumed there.

This peculiarity or fastidiousness is not confined to their food; they have in some places tastes in dress which are strongly marked. In the neighbourhood of Blackburn, for instance, it is the custom of the operatives to use for their under clothing the cloth calico unbleached, or, as it is termed, in "the grey;" and when in the time of the greatest distress under garments were given out by the relief committee from the left-off clothes sent to them for the operatives, much dissatisfaction was expressed at the white, soft, and luxurious garments distributed, and they eagerly sought the brownish grey articles made up in the sewing schools. The men were puzzled at the night shirts given out, they never having been accustomed to make any difference between day and night in their under clothing until changed for cleanliness.

Next to the cost of living, the cost of house rent must be considered as forming a not unimportant item of expenditure in the domestic economy of the operative. Rents vary much in different districts. In the towns in which the cotton trade has been long established, as Manchester, Preston, and others, many of the operatives live in lodgings, but in the towns of more recent growth, as Blackburn for instance, a much larger proportion of the operatives live in houses, frequently the property of the manufacturer in whose mill they are employed, and the rent paid is no inconsiderable item of the operatives' domestic expenses. It is doubtful whether those who were recipients of relief at the rate of 2s. per head could pay their usual rent. If they do pay at all, the sum paid is generally upon a reduced rental; and I believe that the aggregate arrears of rent in the cotton districts would represent a very large sum, which it would be hopeless to expect to recover, although I have reason for knowing that the rent is frequently deducted from the wages of operatives, even when working short time, by the manufacturers whose cottages they may be occupying. Nevertheless the value of this class of property has diminished, and houses may be obtained at a reduction of from 25 to 50 per cent. upon the rent of the houses in ordinary times; for instance, a cottage which would have cost 3s. 6d. per week can now be had for 2s. 4d. per week, and sometimes even for less.

HEALTH.

One cheering fact made a great impression at the commencement of the cotton famine, when so much was appre-

hended from the effects of the cold weather, and of deprivation during the winter months, which dissipated a great deal of alarm; I allude to the diminished mortality of infants. As time wore on, the evidence of the sound regulations under which relief was administered, both by the Boards of Guardians and by the Relief Committees, was shown in the continued healthy condition of the Cotton Districts. Fevers and epidemics have been rare. The reduction in food and clothing, to which so many thousands have been forced to submit, have not been so great as to induce, as was at one time much feared, low fever and other cognate ailments.

I have obtained, for a few of the towns previously referred to, a statement of the births, deaths, and marriages, in order to compare the general state of health for the three last years:—

Births.	1861.	1862.	1863.
Ashton-under-Lyne -	5,097	5,074	4,702
Preston -	—	3,522	3,388
Oldham -	4,376	4,490	4,075
Blackburn -	2,773	2,750	2,558
Over Darwen -	955	990	883
Haslingden -	2,625	2,651	2,597

Marriages.

Ashton-under-Lyne -	1,195	902	1,054
Oldham -	886	718	782
Blackburn -	322	243	308
Over Darwen -	104	91	93
Haslingden -	749	567	608
Rochdale -	818	679	568*

Deaths.

Ashton-under-Lyne -	3,559	3,528	3,270
Preston -	—	2,413	2,144
Oldham -	2,926	3,028	3,242
Blackburn -	1,775	1,815	1,440
Over Darwen -	560	590	448
Haslingden -	1,606	1,514	1,474
Rochdale -	2,184	2,013	1,571*

We see from these figures that the births are rather less in 1863 than in 1861 and 1862. The marriages have been slightly affected, but the number of deaths was less in every town, showing a marked improvement in the general health of the operatives.

I have made very extensive enquiries of gentlemen well qualified from their position and connexion with mills and mill hands—the certifying surgeons under the Factory Acts—many of whom are also Poor Law medical officers, for their

* For three quarters only, the last quarters not having been received.

opinion as to the state of the operatives during the past year; and their evidence is so valuable, and the subject is one of so much importance and interest, that I venture to quote at some length from their Reports.

Mr. Howitt, of Preston, says—

“The physical appearance of the cotton operatives is unquestionably improved. This I attribute to the shorter hours of labour so far as respects the women and children, and as to the men, out-door labour on public works.”†

Mr. Sutcliffe, of Staleybridge, reports that—

“The health of the operatives is *very good* as compared with former times. Three years since I had more than two to one of the operative class as patients than I now have, and this is fully confirmed by the experience of several Poor Law medical officers with whom I have conversed, and who individually say that they have no particular sickness, only the usual routine of autumnal diseases, and a few cases requiring extra food as Poor Law patients.

“I may observe that this diminution in the number of cases of sickness is due, first, as I have been frequently reminded, to the determination of the more provident to incur no further pecuniary liabilities than they are compelled in the way of medicine, &c.

“The second are those who in good times swelled the list of invalids by their riotous living from the pay-day to the Monday morning, and who are now prevented, first, by the diminution in the amount of their earnings, and, in the second place, to the vigilance of the Relief Committee in looking after the individuals, who would otherwise spend wastefully the relief given to them.

One of the reasons assigned by Mr. Sutcliffe for the diminished amount of sickness, viz., that those of the operatives who were accustomed to spend a large part of their earnings in “riotous living” are unable to continue their unfortunate habits, has been frequently mentioned to me as having had considerable influence in keeping down the amount of sickness. Mr. Brown, of Preston, writes to me also:—

“Those of the mill hands who in prosperity extensively patronize the public houses and dancing and singing saloons have a cleaner and altogether better appearance. The discipline of the sewing schools, and the encouragement there given towards the cultivation of neatness and order, having evidently had a good effect upon them.”

Dr. Stewart, of Bacup, states as follows—

“I have no doubt whatever that the operatives have suffered less from sickness, and their health has been much better, for the last 18 months than in any former years when in full employ. In fact, we have had very few bowel complaints since the depression began, which I attribute to forced abstemious manner of living and out-of-door exercise.”

† It will probably be remembered that the cotton operatives were employed upon the “Moor” at Preston at a very early period of the cotton famine.

Mr. Coventry, of Rochdale, says—

“I consider the health of the operatives to have been during the past year very good, as compared with former periods. In fact, I never remember during the last 18 years to have seen the operatives looking so healthy and free from fevers that might be attributed to want of sufficient nourishment.”

Mr. Ogden, also of Rochdale, writes to the same effect:—

“Before the commencement and during the period of the cotton famine, the health of the cotton operatives has not at any time reached so high a standard as at this moment.”

Mr. Halkyard, of Oldham, is of opinion that—

“There has not been any increase in the amount of sickness amongst the population of this district employed in the cotton mills during the present (1863) as compared with former years; but, on the contrary, we have had fewer cases of illness, and also been free from fever of a serious character, or any fatal epidemic, except scarlet fever.”

Mr. Skaife, of Blackburn, in his report upon that town and its immediate neighbourhood, says—

“The amount of disease has been much less than usual at this season of the year. Any increase at the present time is or can be readily traced to the terrific weather we have lately suffered from and continue to endure. For weeks and months the rain has poured down incessantly, bringing in its train the usual effects of wet—continued fevers, attacks of bronchitis, acute rheumatism, quinsey, and ulcerated sore throats.”

Mr. Pilkington, of Enfield, reports for Enfield and Great Harwood that—

“The cotton operatives of this district have never enjoyed better health than during the past year.”

Such is the evidence I received from various parts of my district as to the general bodily health of the operatives; and it is most satisfactory, far more so than could have been expected; but although the opinions of all the certifying surgeons with whom I have been in communication upon this subject agree in the main with the opinions I have quoted, some of them have observed differences in their districts, which are deserving of attention.

Several gentlemen expressed an opinion that they had remarked an alteration in the appearance of the operatives. an appearance of diminished stamina. I anticipated a more extended evidence of this. I have occasionally remarked the less buoyant air and manner of the operatives. I have been frequently told that a difference would show itself; it is, however, surprising, but at the same time most gratifying, that so little evidence should exist of any deterioration in the physical condition of the cotton hands through a period of deprivation of nearly three years. I quote, however, from *all* the reports I have received, expressly referring to this diminished vigour.

Mr. Taylor, of Rawtenstall, who speaks favourably of the general condition of his district, qualifies his observations by saying—

“I have, however, had many operatives as patients who were physically unable to bear up under the greater exertion required in the working Surat cotton, but in all these cases I have found the parties to be of feeble physical developement, or members of a family whose aggregate earnings under short time was not sufficient to procure them the proper quantity and quality of food necessary for their labour.”

Mr. Sutcliffe, of Staleybridge, from whose Report I have already quoted, states that—

“Accidents attended with loss of soft parts, such as the fleshy parts of the finger ends, &c., heal much more tardily than formerly.”

“In consequence of the diminished supply of nutritious food, and extra amount of labour which Surat cotton entails, the operatives are generally *thinner*.”

Mr. Wraith, of Over Darwen, near Blackburn, states—

“From the experience I have had, I am convinced the people are not in the same robust health as is common to them in ordinary times.”

And Mr. Bean, of Mossley, near Manchester, expresses the result of his experience, as follows—

“I am decidedly of opinion that the long-continued low dietary is gradually undermining the constitutional vigour of great numbers. This I infer partly from their appearance, but I find it chiefly manifest itself not so much in increasing sickness as in retarding recovery.”

This latter evidence refers to the general effect of the distress upon the frame of the operatives, in fact, of the diminished quantity of the nutriment to which they had been so long accustomed; but I have received statements that the working of Surat cotton was in some instances injurious to the health of the operatives. Mr. Leach, the certifying surgeon of Heywood, first called my attention in a positive manner to the subject; and he described to me in what manner he had observed the operatives in his district to have suffered from affections of the air passages, and in some cases of the skin, which he attributed to the dust and fly let loose from the Surat cotton in the course of its manufacture. Mr. Leach made his experience public in the *Lancet*, from which I annex his summing up of his facts:—

“I have now passed through the general affections of operatives engaged in the various processes necessary to produce the cotton thread from Surat cotton, and shown, as I trust, plainly that these affections arise in a great measure from the circumstance that Surat cotton has a much shorter fibre than any other kind of cotton; that its manufacture involves, on an average, twenty-

five per cent. of loss to the spinners ; that the teeth of the machines through which it has to be passed are of necessity set closer for the better working of it ; and that the health of the operatives employed suffers much more, from its short fibres irritating the epithelial mucous surfaces of the air-passages during inspiration, whether nasal or vocal ; and that the only remedy is more effectual ventilation in the mixing, scutching, carding, and drawing rooms. Beyond these rooms I have not observed a greater amount of suffering than from working any other class of cotton. Lastly, whatever principle of ventilation be adopted, the lightness and shortness of the fibre of Surat cotton are so remarkable that a much greater loss than twenty-five per cent. would be observable if increased ventilation be much applied ; but this loss would be amply compensated for by a better quality of cotton thread, bearing an increased marketable value. Many wealthy manufacturers, compelled to use Surat cotton since the cotton famine, have applied increased ventilation to free the mixing and scutching rooms from the additional dust attending its use, and have at considerable expense brought into use powerful fans, more elevated rooms, and other appliances ; and in every instance the factory operatives enjoy comparative impunity from what remains of the floating dust. The use of better gins would free the raw cotton of Surat from much of its present dirt ; and our East Indian authorities possess the power of enforcing them, which would enhance the value of the cotton, and confer an inestimable boon on the Lancashire hive of wealth and industry."

This opinion, founded upon Mr. Leach's personal observation, appeared to me deserving of further enquiry, and I have endeavoured to obtain from various parts of my district reliable information upon the point. In some places no difference had been observed, in others very perceptible effects had been traced to the "Surat cotton." From Mr. Wraith, certifying surgeon of Darwen near Blackburn, I learn that:—

"The people who are employed in making up Surat cotton complain very much. They inform me, on opening the bales of cotton there is an intolerable smell, which causes sickness. The fibre being so short, a great amount of size, both animal and vegetable, is used before the cotton is spun into weft. The cotton is also very dirty and dusty ; but this is remedied in a great measure by the fan, which is (in most of the mills) connected with the blowing machine. The weft is very soft, and breaks frequently, and is also filled with "chips" (pieces of leaves, &c.) This account of the cotton has been given to me by patients suffering from various ailments. Bronchitis is more prevalent, owing to the dust. Inflammatory sore throat is common, from the same cause. Sickness and dyspepsia are produced by the frequent breaking of the weft, when the weaver sucks the weft through the eye of the shuttle."

Mr. Brown, of Preston, residing in a town in which very little Surat cotton is used, has not had as extended expe-

rience as Mr. Wraith, of Darwen; but perhaps the contrast between those mills in which Surat is worked up and those in which American and Egyptian, &c. is used enables him to make a fair comparison. He says:—

“Surat cotton is used at very few mills in my district, but at these I hear great complaints about it. In the mixing, scribbling, and carding rooms the dust and dirt which are disengaged irritate the air passages, and give rise to cough and difficulty of breathing. A disease of the skin, no doubt from the irritation of the dirt contained in the Surat cotton, also prevails.”

Mr. Coventry, Rochdale, had observed an increase of sickness, for which he thus accounts:—

“At some weaving sheds where warps of Surat cotton are used, more of the hands are off work than usual for a day or two, but that is attributed not so much to the cotton as to some material put into the size.”

Mr. Sutcliffe of Stalybridge, from whose Report I have already quoted, refers to an instance which had just come under his observation:

“Three or four cases of fever were from the one mill, although the patients were not living in the same locality, and they alleged, as a cause of their sickness, something which had come in the cotton; and at the same time, and out of the same mill, a very considerable number of the hands were prostrated in a similar way.”

I have also received statements that the weavers attribute increased sickness to the size which is used in dressing the warps of Surat cotton, and which is not made of the same material as formerly, viz., flour. This substitute for flour is said, however, to have the very important advantage of increasing greatly the weight of the cloth manufactured, making 15lbs. of the raw material to weigh 20lbs. when woven into cloth.

But all these ailments arising from or connected with the working of Surat cotton are happily not to be regarded as necessary consequences or irremediable. The use of Surat cotton as a general staple to supply the place of American is almost in a state of experiment. The peculiarities of the material have to be well studied; and the best means of working it, from the first process of “opening” the raw cotton to the throwing of the last weft of the cloth, are still matters of experiment and uncertainty.

Taking the first process of opening or cleaning the cotton, it was found to be indispensable that the Surat cotton should undergo a process more searching than that to which American is subjected; and various methods have been tried to produce the Surat cotton clean and free from dirt, ready for the card room; but I hear, from persons equally competent to judge, the most opposite opinions, for instance, as to the relative advantage of “steaming” the cotton and of

cleaning it dry. Some manufacturers steam their cotton, and consider the process advantageous and economical; others reject the new process upon the very opposite arguments. But, by whatever means Surat cotton is now being opened and cleaned, contrivances have been or are being adapted in all the best establishments for freeing the air from the dust and fly which are disengaged from the Surat cotton. Although there may be an objection even to increased ventilation, as mentioned by Mr. Leach, p. 61; yet so great progress is being made, that in some mills, through improved machinery and arrangements, the cleaning of cotton of all sorts, but chiefly of Surat, causes less dust and fly in the blowing and carding rooms at the present time than before the alteration in machinery was effected.

SCHOOLS.

Upon the whole the accounts I have received from schools in various parts of my district, have been very satisfactory. I have obtained specific information from 50 of the largest schools in my district, each attended upon the average by 300 children, and both as far as regards the number in attendance, and the financial condition of the schools the general results are greatly in advance of what could have been expected. The number of children actually attending these schools—not the number upon the books, was in—

1861.	1862.	1863.
—	—	—
16,692	18,028	16,859

The reduction in 1863 has been caused chiefly by the withdrawal of the relief by payment of school fees for the children of parents who obtained employment. This, however correct in principle, has had the effect of throwing upon the streets many children whose parents have been really unable to pay the school fee, small as it is, and it is really a subject of so much importance, that it is to be hoped the Manchester Committee will re-consider their decision, and not allow the children to be thrown about as they will be, upon idleness and the bad habits engendered by want of occupation and proper control. The funds of some of the schools have suffered considerably, and the income of other schools have, on the contrary, benefited from the children for whom relief is given, being compelled to attend school, but I think the absolute loss of income to each of the 50 schools, caused by the distress, would not exceed on the average 15% in the year. Where the income of the schoolmasters depended upon the children's pence, the pressure has undoubtedly been felt by a most discerning body of men who have throughout the whole of the crisis worked energetically and under very trying circumstances, and yet I

find that they received into, and continued in their schools many children who were unable to pay their school fees, and in some instances provided books, &c., so that the children should not suffer from their inability to purchase them, and I have not heard of a single instance of a school having been closed, or of a schoolmaster having thrown up his office from the pressure of the Cotton crisis. There was a predominant feeling that the children should be kept in school if possible, and all heartily joined in working to this end.

The master of the High Crompton National Schools wrote to me,

“I taught 75 children free for five months.”

The master of the British School at Rochdale, says,—

“I have for the last 10 weeks educated and found books for from 60 to 70 boys free, as I would not incur the responsibility of turning the children into the streets.”

The master of the British School at Heywood, near Manchester, relates as follows the course he hit to keep his scholars together during the distress:—

“About this time I wrote to the owners of those factories, the short-timers of which had attended my school, proffering to teach all boys and girls under 15, who had been employed therein, gratis. By this means the attendance was considerably increased; and subsequently the educational aid rendered by the Relief Committee raised the numbers still higher. In August of this year (1863) the Relief Committee made new and stringent regulations with respect to the educational grant: the effect of which was to deprive about 70 of my pupils of further participation in its benefits. Moreover rather than let these children run idly about the streets, I permitted them to attend school gratis. They are now doing so.”

The master of the Middleton National School, in describing the ordeal through which his school has passed, says:—

“Except an amount of 14s., we have received no assistance from any Poor Law Guardians or Relief Committees, neither have we been assisted from any private sources, except that our rector with his accustomed and well known generosity paid for many of the children, both of church people and dissenters. Premising that my own salary depends upon the fees of the scholars, I feel great satisfaction in being able to say that no poor children have ever been, or ever will be turned away from these doors on account of inability to raise the school wage.”

In the Hurst British School near Ashton-under-Lyne, the relative proportion of those paying their own school fees, and of those who are admitted through the liberality of Mr. John Whittaker of Hurst, without payment, was as follows:—

	1861.	1862.	1863.
No. paying their own fees	350	89	145
No. attending without payment	14	317	280

Mr. Atkins of Lees Mill, the manager of the Lees British School, one of the best schools in the manufacturing districts, says, with reference to this subject:—

“We should have had a large decrease had I not given orders to the teachers at the commencement of the distress, to allow all children to attend free, whose parents were thrown out of employment by the stoppage of the mills.”

In some of the schools it is reported that the irregularity of attendance is very great. This is attributed in most instances to the uncertainty of work, the parents being employed for a week or two, when the children are taken from school, the Relief Committee not paying the school fee under these circumstances, and then upon the parents being off work, the children return to school, or to the anxiety of parents to procure work of any kind for their children. But in by far the greater number of schools, the masters are satisfied with the attendance of the children, which they say is as good, if not better, than in ordinary times, and the general progress of the children is in general well spoken of.

The Rev. C. Robinson, Incumbent of Holy Trinity Blackburn states that his “schools in every respect were never in better condition, and the progress of the children has been really wonderful.” From the school of Messrs. Sparrow and Crankshaw of Blackburn, I am informed that there are:—

“Boys who have not worked for $2\frac{1}{2}$ years, who have never missed a single attendance, except through sickness or working at home for their parents.”

The master of the British School, Staleybridge, says:—

“I have found the children attend very regularly: the school has not fluctuated so much by far as it did in the good times of 1859 and 1860. There is considerable anxiety that the children should get on. Unfortunately the parents are unable to purchase books and slates; this retards progress in the children.”

The master of the British School at Hurst, near Ashton-under-Lyne, referring to the half-timers, says:—

“You will be interested to know that the children who were half-timers in the factories, are now generally attending the whole day as ordinary scholars.”

The Incumbent of St. John's Dukinfield, expresses the following strong opinion of the uninterrupted work carried on by such schools:—

“The attendance of the children has been regular and satisfactory. I am fully persuaded that never at any time have the scholars been under more wholesome teaching and discipline.”

The master of the Sparrow Hill Schools at Rochdale, speaks well of the feeling of parents in his neighbourhood, that their children should attend school; he says:—

“Parents are, I think, anxious that their children should attend school. Many, when they have thought that they should not receive education tickets, owing to the district visitor being

late, have brought the money themselves, although they could ill afford it, rather than let their children remain at home."

The following extract from a letter from the master of the British School at Staleybridge is further illustrative of the desire which I have shown to exist, to keep the children at school, and to promote their advancement by every possible means:

"At the commencement of short time, and when the mills only ran three or four days a week, there was generally a stoppage of work on a Thursday evening. I insisted, as far as I could, upon the whole day's attendance of all factory scholars that were stopped on a Friday or a Thursday. In this effort I was greatly assisted by the mill-owners and managers; the result was, school was more numerously attended than on any other day in the week: again, in cases where children were stopped work for a week or two, I allowed them to come free. This was esteemed by the majority, a few however of the parents were indifferent whether their children attended or not."

In many of these schools, half-time children formed the majority of the scholars. In each of them a large number of half-timers attended before the Cotton famine, and it has been seen from the extracts from the letters of managers and masters that there has been no falling off in good will and energy in the cause of education: it is also clear that the results would satisfy any reasonable expectation; and it shows how half-time attendance at school may be made to bear fruit. I will quote one more extract from a letter written to me by Mr. Atkins (to whose communication I have already referred) the manager of the British School at Lees; and in making this reference, I feel it a duty to express the strongest opinion of the admirable system of this school, and of the intelligence of the teachers, who exercised the classes when I have been at the Lees school. Mr. Atkins says:—

"Mr. Northrop, who was master at your late visit, has been appointed Assistant Inspector of Schools under Dr. Morrell. Mr. Josephus Shaw, formerly a half-timer in the school, afterwards one of our pupil teachers, has been appointed on my recommendation to the head-mastership, and he is doing remarkably well. You will be much gratified to learn that the youth Samuel Jenkinson, who taught the first class on the day you were present, matriculated at the last examination held at Owen's College, Manchester. He completed his five years apprenticeship this week. Previous to becoming a pupil teacher, he was one of our half-timers."

I must here bear my own testimony to the greatly improved school attendance of short-timers. I have noticed this year by year, and I am satisfied that it is due in a great measure to the effect of the educational provisions of the Factory Acts in past years. A great number of parents owe all they have

learnt to the half-time system; they appreciate this, and wish their children to be gainers as they have been.

It appears from Mr. Maclure's returns that the Relief Committees had under their superintendence in the last week of December about 3,000 men attending adult schools, 7,000 females attending sewing classes, and 18,000 children attending day schools; in all about 28,000. In January 1863 the numbers were about 80,000, so that there has been a reduction of 52,000 in the twelve months.

In the course of last year I visited many of the adult schools, sewing schools, and industrial schools, in Manchester, Preston, Blackburn, Ashton-under-Lyne, Staleybridge, Oldham, and Glasgow, and I am convinced that they have been of the utmost benefit to the operatives. In many of the sewing schools I was told that one-third of the females knew nothing of sewing upon their first attending the classes; that when they first took a needle in their hand, they pushed it through their work by pressing it upon the table; and that many had no idea of mending or patching their clothes.

I saw a mother, for instance, who until she attended a sewing class, had never used a needle, making a frock for her sixth child; and I have seen even and regular work done by girls after three months training, and they have been taught not only to sew, but even to make clothes; when it is remembered how many hundreds of women and girls have been taught to sew well, it is a matter of the greatest gratification that so many will possess for the future in their homes a greater power of increasing their domestic comforts, and of economizing their household expenses.

At the male adult schools I have occasionally thought there was an appearance of weariness; but this is not surprising; the employment of females in sewing and knitting was a proper and congenial occupation for them, and though the attendance at classes might have been somewhat irksome, yet upon the whole they were all doing something which had a practical result; in some schools they made shirts for the militia, in some they made all kinds of clothing for distribution by the Relief Committee, and in others for sale; but in the male adult schools it was not possible to set the men to work upon an occupation which would be equally congenial to them; wherever it was possible the men were taught trades as shoemaking and mending, carpentering, matmaking &c., but the number was comparatively small, and the great bulk of the operatives attended school merely as a condition of relief. The life of a labourer is monotonous. He rises at a given hour, goes to work, to the same work every day, does today as he did yesterday, but that which makes his life a cheerful one, is that he receives the value of his labour. In these schools it was impossible not to feel that the time spent there was, com-

pared with their former labour, unproductive; and I was therefore the more impressed with the attention of the men in these classes, and the anxiety of so many to improve themselves, especially in arithmetic. It sometimes caused a shade of melancholy to see an old gray haired man leaning over his desk and poring through a sum in reduction or practice, but even this was relieved by being told by a frank spoken spinner in his own hearty manner while shewing the sketches of geography and what he was reading, "they " could not give us work, and so God put it into their hearts to " give us the next best to it." These men cannot return to their families and homes without feeling that instruction is one means of adding to happiness, and to the purpose of life. They frequently expressed their conviction that they had lost much from not having had more instruction in their younger days, and their desire for their children to attend school and to improve them has certainly been shown favourably. The opinions of Mr. Brown of Preston upon the effect of the sewing schools as quoted at p. 59, and of the master of the Sparrow Hill school, Rochdale, which I have quoted at p. 66, upon the anxiety of parents that their children should be at school, are very interesting.

Some time must elapse before a permanent alteration can show itself; but as yet there is every reason for feeling profound satisfaction. The conduct of the operatives has been almost blameless, and their readiness to accept and make the best of out-door labour, to which I shall presently allude, give the earnest of a most satisfactory future.

PUBLIC WORKS ACT AND EMPLOYMENT OF OPERATIVES.

It was perhaps impossible at the outset of the distress to find employment for any number of the operatives. Many attempts were made, with more or less success, to establish industrial schools, in which matmaking, shoemaking, carpentering, &c. were carried on. The number of those for whom such employment could be found was very small, but a larger number of men were employed in some towns upon outdoor work,—in excavation and levelling. The principle upon which industrial employments were organized varied considerably in different towns, but in those places even in which the outdoor work was not absolutely a labour test the manner in which labour was remunerated by its being paid for either at the exact rate of relief, or closely approximating the rate, it became in fact a labour test. It could hardly have been otherwise, for the relief committees were the almoners of the public benefactions, and were bound so to distribute relief as to alleviate distress, and to restrict their action to that object. If the relief committees, therefore, had undertaken any work except as the means of relieving

distress, they would have exceeded their functions and frustrated the intentions of the subscribers to the several funds. The Public Works Act of the last Session was intended to remedy this inconvenience, and to enable the operative to earn his day's wages as an independent labourer. The purpose of this Act was threefold:

Firstly, to enable local authorities to borrow money of the Exchequer Loan Commissioners:

Secondly, to facilitate the improvement of the towns of the cotton districts:

Thirdly, to provide work and remunerative wages to the unemployed operatives.

The two first objects could be easily traced out. The condition of so many of the manufacturing towns leaves room for most extensive improvements. Streets and rows upon rows of houses have been erected, with imperfect or no sewerage, the roads being marked out, but neither paved nor made. The rapid development of the cotton manufacture in many districts rendered the erection of dwellings for the operatives imperative. The mills could not be worked without hands; hands could not be obtained unless there were houses on the spot for them. Thus houses were run up and occupied; and then, the immediate want being supplied, the completion of the roads, although a part of the duty of the owner of the property, remained in abeyance. In many instances these houses are the property of operatives of the better class, with whom this kind of house property is a favourite investment. From this cause alone there might have been ample labour found for the operatives. It was thought, however, at first by many that any rough employment in the open air, such as road-making, hewing stone, &c., would seriously impair the aptitude of the cotton operative for his proper occupation; and this thought was probably the offspring of the strong hope that the war would not have lasted longer than a year; but the necessity for his being actively employed has caused this objection to fade away, and the desire of all is now directed to the finding employment for as many as possible at fair and remunerative wages. The Public Works Act, under this feeling, has been adopted in fifty-eight districts, and the sum of 883,700*l.* has been authorized by the Poor Law Board to be borrowed for various public local purposes. I am enabled, through the courtesy of the President of the Poor Law Board, to annex a statement of the various towns in my district for which loans have been sanctioned, and the purposes to which it is intended to apply the loans.

This statement alone will show of what great value the Public Works Act will be in enabling these towns to undertake improvements which it would have been almost impossible to complete without some great and stirring motive. The

interests of the owners of the land, of the builders of house property, of rate payers, &c., are so various, and the increase of the towns so outran the possibility of completing sewage, drainage, &c., simultaneously with the cottages which were frequently wanted immediately, that it required some pressure of no ordinary kind to force so many conflicting interests and opinions to agree upon incurring pecuniary burdens of so great magnitude.

A STATEMENT of the PLACES, in the district of Mr. Redgrave, from which Applications have been made to the Poor Law Board for Loans under the Public Works (Manufacturing Districts) Act, 1863, showing the Amount applied for, the Amount granted, and the purposes for which the Loan is required in each case.

Names of Places applying for Loans.	Amount applied for.	Amount sanctioned.	Purposes to which Loans are to be applied.	Observations.
Accrington District:	£ 8,000	£ refused	To provide a burial ground and build chapels thereon.	Refused because the local board was not constituted burial board under the Local Government Act.
Do. -	3,000	3,000	The construction of main and other sewers.	
Do. -	30,000	24,200	To pave channel, level and alter certain streets and construct additional sewers.	The estimates amounted to 24,200 <i>l.</i> only.
Do.	15,000	11,900	To provide a market place and construct a market house and other conveniences for the purpose of holding markets.	The limit of the borrowing power was 11,900 <i>l.</i> only.
Ashton-under-Lyne: Borough -	76,000	6,343	The construction of sewers and the paving and flagging of streets.	Although the application was nominally for 76,000 <i>l.</i> plans and estimates for 6,343 <i>l.</i> only were furnished, and consequently the present loan was limited to that amount. It is understood that application for the balance will be made hereafter.
Ashton-under-Lyne Union: Tintwistle Township.	400	400	To construct new reservoir for water supply and to enlarge existing reservoir and lay down pipes.	
Blackburn: Borough -	78,300	78,300	To sewer and drain certain parts of the borough; to flag and pave certain streets and highways; to pitch the bed of so much of the river as lies within the borough; to improve bridges.	

Names of Places applying for Loans.	Amount applied for.	Amount sanctioned.	Purposes to which Loans are to be applied.	Observations.
Blackburn : Borough -	£ 66,744	£ 65,825	To sewer, pave, and flag certain streets; to establish public baths; and to level, drain, and plant public walks or pleasure grounds.	
Bury District -	55,000	33,259	The paving, sewerage, and improving certain streets.	Plans for 33,259 $\frac{1}{2}$ only have yet been furnished.
Chorley District (Lancashire.)	21,250	14,250	The paving and flagging of streets and making and improving roads.	7,000 $\frac{1}{2}$ for the purchase of market rights postponed for further information.
Chorley Union : Adlington District.	1,900	1,900	To level and improve certain highways, public roads and footpaths in Adlington Township.	
Brindle Parish.	1,200	1,200	To level and improve certain highways.	
Cuerdon Township.	750	750	Works of drainage and private improvement of certain lands belonging to Robert Townley Parker, Esq. and at his expense.	
Charnock Richard Township.	1,200	1,200	To widen and improve a certain highway called Dob Row.	
Wheelton Township.	700	700	To level and improve certain highways, public roads and footpaths.	
Chorlton Union : Didsbury Township.	7,500	7,500	The making of certain main sewers.	
Gorton District.	25,000	—	To sewer, pave, and complete certain streets.	Under consideration.
Droylsden District.	2,800	2,800	To make sewers and provide gas pillars, lamp-irons and other plant.	
Dukinfield District.	2,000	2,000	To sewer, level, pave, flag, and channel a certain street called Park Road.	
Do. - -	9,000	9,000	To sewer, level, pave, flag, and channel portions of certain streets.	
Glossop Union -	3,500	3,500	To execute certain works of drainage in and of private improvement of certain lands belonging to Lord Edward Howard and at his expense.	

Names of Places applying for Loans.	Amount applied for.	Amount sanctioned.	Purposes to which Loans are to be applied.	Observations.
Glossop Union -	£ 6,600	£ —	For improving certain highways or public roads and footpaths; also works of drainage and private improvement on the estate of Lord Edw. Howard.	Under consideration.
Great Harwood District.	9,000	8,000	The paving, sewerage, and improving the streets of the town of Great Harwood.	The application was in excess of the rateable value.
Hurst District -	1,000	1,000	To pave, flag, sewer, and complete certain streets; and to provide lamps and other requisites for lighting the district.	
Lancaster: Borough -	7,000	7,000	The construction and extension of works for water supply.	
Skerton Township.	600	600	To lay down pipes for water supply.	
Manchester: City of -	130,000	130,000	To construct a reservoir, and to extend and improve the supply of water.	Estimates 18,260 <i>l.</i> only.
Do. - -	25,000	25,000	To provide and lay out a cemetery, and erect chapels.	
Cheetham -	20,000	18,260	To sewer, pave, and improve certain streets.	
Chorlton-upon-Medlock.	15,000	13,000	Ditto - - -	
Ardwick -	30,000	30,000	Ditto.	2,500 <i>l.</i> refused for enlarging Town Hall, and 500 <i>l.</i> added for increase in estimates.
Middleton and Tonge District.	7,000	6,000	The paving, sewerage, and improving certain streets.	The estimates, including 90 <i>l.</i> for extras, amount to 6,000 <i>l.</i> only.
Oldham Borough	18,000	18,000	To acquire and lay out certain lands to be used as places of public recreation.	
Do. - - -	7,000	5,700	To lay out certain land to be used as a place of public recreation.	Plans for buildings in park, estimated at 1,300 <i>l.</i> , returned for revision.
Oswaldtwistle District.	23,000	22,738	The construction of waterworks and sewers, and the paving and improving of roads and streets.	
Over Darwen District.	2,000	2,000	To construct a main sewer.	

Names of Places applying for Loans.	Amount applied for.	Amount sanctioned.	Purposes to which Loans are to be applied.	Observations.
	£	£		
Over Darwen District.	31,000 } 1,000 }	32,000 }	To construct sewers, &c., and to pave and improve certain streets.	
Poulton, Bare, and Tonisholme District.	4,500	4,500	The construction of works for water supply.	
Preston Borough	28,500	28,500	To block, pave, and flag streets; to form and complete certain roads and streets; to make footpaths on the river side, and to lay out and improve public parks.	
Do. - -	19,739	19,739	To sewer, level, pave, and channel private streets in the borough.	
Rochdale Borough	5,000	5,000	To widen, level, divert, and improve certain streets and roads.	
Rochdale Union: Spotland Township.	1,000	1,000	The improving and levelling of the highway in the hamlet of Catley Lane Head.	
Salford Borough	81,000	40,000 12,600	The sewerage, flagging, and paving certain streets in the Salford and Broughton districts of the borough; constructing a canal basin, building walls, and executing other works at the Manure depôt in Oswald Lane, Salford; the laying out land purchased for extending the Salford cattle market, and constructing cattle stalls and sheep pens, and other works.	The plans of the works to be undertaken in the district of Pendleton, the estimated cost of which is 25,000 <i>l.</i> , have not yet been furnished.
Stalybridge Borough.	3,000	2,954	The construction, alteration, enlargement, and repair of certain sewers, &c.	

So much interest is attached to the working of the Public Works Act, and to the out-door employment of the cotton operatives in whatever manner they may be occupied, that I have made inquiries in most of the towns in which the Act has been adopted, and I now submit the result of these inquiries.

ACCRINGTON.

It appears from the reports made to me that the number of men now employed on the works is 86, of whom 24 are skilled workmen, 40 are ordinary out-door labourers, and 22 are factory operatives.

The average earnings of the ordinary out-door labourer are 2s. 8d. per day, of the factory operative 2s.

Previous to the passing of the Public Works Act the factory operatives were employed at out-door labour, and were in many cases paid by the piece. In many cases 3s. per day was earned, and the average amounted to 2s. 4d.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

Mr. Oram, the sub-inspector of the district, reports to me as follows, as to the out-door employment of operatives in Ashton:—

“One way of giving employment to a very large number of men out of employ has not been adopted by the corporation, viz., the formation of a public park, for the maintenance of which, when formed, a legacy was left by the late Samuel Oldham, Esq., of Oak View, Audenshaw. He bequeathed, amongst other things, 7,000*l.*, the income arising from which is to be applied for the benefit of the Manchester Royal Infirmary, the Stockport Infirmary, and the Oldham Dispensary, until lands in the parish of Ashton-under-Lyne shall, either from funds raised by public subscription or from any other funds other than those bequeathed, be purchased and laid out as a public park or place for the recreation and amusement of the inhabitants of the town of Ashton-under-Lyne and the neighbourhood, and be vested in trustees for the above purpose, and immediately after the complete establishment and laying out of such park the income of such bequest to be devoted to the benefit of the said park and in keeping up the same.”

Attempts were made to obtain land for the purposes of a park, and for employing the cotton operatives, but the negotiations between the Relief Committee and the Lord of the Manor failed. Mr. Oram then continues:—

“With respect to the works included in the grant the authorities commenced as soon as possible entering into contracts and expending a considerable amount before the first grant was received from the Treasury, and the works are now in active operation.

“On the 4th December 100 skilled and 91 unskilled labourers were employed in sewerage, paving, and flagging; the unskilled operatives being paid $4\frac{1}{2}d.$ and $5d.$ per cubic yard, their earnings for the week on which I took the account being as under:—

“ 2	at	3s. 0d.	per day.
19	„	2s. 8d.	„
6	„	2s. 6d.	„
8	„	2s. $4\frac{1}{2}d.$	„
10	„	2s. $2\frac{1}{2}d.$	„
4	„	2s. 0d.	„
7	„	1s. $11\frac{1}{2}d.$	„
15	„	1s. 9d.	„
10	„	1s. $6\frac{1}{2}d.$	„
10	„	1s. 2d.	„

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. “The number of days employed of course varies according to the weather and other circumstances.

“In addition to the improved sewerage, the adoption of the Eureka system will be a great sanitary improvement to the town, and will tend to prevent a state of things referred to by Mr. Rawlinson, and which Lord Derby thought so important, that he considered it desirable that Mr. Rawlinson should repeat them at the meeting of the Central Relief Committee, in order that they might go forth as extensively as possible, not only to the public at large, but also to the manufacturers and to the manufacturing districts, and those who had authority in them.” Mr. Rawlinson remarked—“That in anticipation of any outbreak of disease it was just as well to take into consideration the removal of nuisances before such outbreak took place. He only spoke from his own knowledge when he said, that, connected with the cottages of the working classes of Lancashire, nuisances were allowed to remain until fermentation took place, and if any epidemic broke out it would be very dangerous to meddle with them at such a time.”

The plan adopted by the Corporation is described by Mr. Harrop in his pamphlet “Eureka,” from which the following account is taken. The cess-pits and ash-pits will be filled up, and beneath the seat of the closets, instead of a cesspool or a drain conducting to a cesspool as under the old system, there is a moveable box for the reception of the deposits, which is constructed to receive a closely fitted lid. A deodorizing powder is sprinkled on the box before it is put into its place, and the deodorization goes on while the box is being filled. When a box becomes full, the slide lid is inserted, and the box is removed and placed in the cart, and a clean box is introduced in its stead, the whole being the work of a minute. Boxes for the reception of the ashes are provided in like manner. The deodorizing powder is composed of the cheapest materials, and each time that a clean box is introduced the powder need not cost more than a halfpenny.

“Under the engagement entered into by the Corporation with the Patent Eureka Company, the former agrees to pay 1s. 6d. per house per annum for ten years on condition that the Company remove the nightsoil and ashes from the borough. The Corporation to make all needful alterations, and the Company to find all needful plant and deodorent, and to enter into a bond for the due execution of the work. The Eureka Company agree to allow the Corporation the sum of 30*l.* per annum from the foregoing sum of 1s. 6d. per house for local advantages and for permission to take away the contents of mill cesspools without the furnace ashes. The benefit of this arrangement to the operatives will be at once evident to those who have experienced the disagreeable effluvia in the mills arising from the neglect of proper ventilation.

“The Guardians, considering it desirable to provide other employment than that of picking oakum for a portion of the able-bodied applicants for relief, arranged that as many as possible should be employed in the respective districts where such applicants resided in repairing footpaths and roads (excepting turnpikes), whether tenure lengths, or otherwise, and in opening drains to carry off the surface water of the same; the labour so employed being superintended by the guardian or committee resident in the district where such work is undertaken; the men to be employed five hours as an equivalent for each shilling given in relief.”

“A number of the able-bodied men are employed and are to be employed in repairing roads and draining moss land on the Earl of Stamford’s property, by the Board of Guardians, on terms agreed upon between the Guardians and Lord Stamford.”

BACUP.

The Local Government Act has just been adopted in Bacup as a preparatory step to the adoption of the Public Works Act, and the application for a loan.

BLACKBURN.

Mr. Henderson the sub-inspector of this district, and chairman of the Labour Committee, has been good enough to give me the following information respecting Blackburn.

“Previous to the passing of the Public Works Act, the Board of Guardians, and the Relief Committee came to an understanding that works of public utility should be undertaken, and the unemployed operatives set to work for the relief granted to them. The result was that some months before the Act became law, many new streets had been excavated, formed, and paved, and since the passing of the Act, the number of operatives placed on these works, has been gradually increasing. It is not contemplated that any of the men thus employed, should long continue to be paid by the Relief Committee, and as the season advances, arrangements are being made to have them transferred to the corporation, and paid regular wages.

“The following return exhibits the present position of the employment under the Public Works Act in Blackburn.

Nature of Works.	Total number employed.		Number employed on piece work.	Number employed.		Total amount of Wages paid.	By whom paid.	Number of Operatives earning per week		
	Skilled.	Unskilled.		As regular labourers.	On short time for relief.			4s. and under 12s.	12s. and under 15s.	15s. and under 25s.
Sewerage works - - -	92	60	-	152	-	£ s. d. 138 16 9	Corporation	-	48	12
Excavating, forming, and paving of streets and highways.	79	64	16	143	-	110 2 4	Do.	-	31	13
Sewerage and excavating for paving -	50	10	60	60	-	39 0 0	Contractors of Works.	-	-	-
Sewerage works - - -	-	276	-	-	276	185 12 0	Relief Committee	-	240	36
Excavating streets, preparing stones, &c.	-	54	-	-	54	32 8 0	Do.	-	54	-
Getting and breaking stones - - -	-	39	-	-	39	21 8 0	Do.	20	19	-
Improvements on public park - - -	6	149	-	-	149	62 8 9	Do.	124	25	-
	227	652	76	355	518	589 15 1		144	417	61

Number of persons earning regular wages - - - 355
 Number of dependents of do. - - - 1,420
 Number of persons employed for relief only - - - 518
 Number of dependents on do. - - - 1,672

3,965

“The most vigorous activity in adopting the Public Works Act in Blackburn has, however, failed in providing a sufficiency of work for the able-bodied operatives out of work, and who have a claim upon the Board of Guardians or the Relief Committee. These men are provided with work by a Labour Committee, composed of Guardians and members of the Relief Committee, who undertake contracts for private parties. The number of persons so employed exceeds 350.”

BURY AND ELTON.

Operatives have been employed by the Relief Committee in planting potatoes, and at a later period of the year in digging them up, but none were employed in out-door labour in December except by the Guardians, who employed 215 able-bodied men in stone-breaking. No public works had been commenced, although a loan was contemplated by the Improvement Commissioners for a cemetery, public slaughter-houses, sewerage, and paving, and a public park.

DUKINFIELD.

I beg to quote from Mr. Oram's Report upon this part of his district.

“A portion of the works, viz., the main sewer in King Street, has been carried out by contract, on the condition that the contractor should only employ those who were either on the books of the Relief Committee or the Guardians. During the week ending 5th December, I found 48 men engaged on this part of the works, being 21 cotton operatives, 24 labourers, recipients of relief, and 3 skilled workmen; the cotton operatives receiving 2s. 6d. per day, the labourers 2s. 8d., and the skilled workmen (bricklayers) 6s. per day.

“The contractor informs me that whilst the cotton operatives are not fit for the underground work, they work well at surface work, and he is satisfied with their ability and conduct. He states that they have averaged 4 days work per week from the commencement.

“The remainder of the works at present commenced, viz. the main sewer in Tame Valley, are being carried out by the surveyor to the Board of Health, who has employed only recipients of relief, with the exception of two bricklayers and one paviour. The sewer runs from 8 to 14 feet deep. Forty operatives were employed on the 15th August, and were paid 8d. per cubic yard, earning 2s. 2d. per day. Owing to the weather and want of material, they were only able to work two days, and for about four weeks after they only averaged three days from the same cause.

“On the 26th September, 44 cotton operatives (and two bricklayers) were employed, divided into excavating and filling up gangs, the former receiving 7d. per cubic yard, and the

latter 5*d.* At filling up they made 2*s.* 4½*d.*, and at excavating 2*s.* 4*d.*, and averaged four days per week.

“On the 17th October, 40 cotton operatives (and two bricklayers) were employed, the excavating gang being paid 6*d.* per cubic yard, and averaging 2*s.* 8½*d.* per day, the filling-up gang receiving 5*d.* per cubic yard, and averaging 2*s.* 6*d.* per day, and averaging four days per week.

“On the 31st October, 36 cotton operatives (and two bricklayers) were employed, the excavators receiving 6*d.* per cubic yard, and averaging 2*s.* 11*d.* per day, the filling-up gang 5*d.* per cubic yard, and averaging 2*s.* 6*d.* per day, working five days per week.

“On the 21st November, 40 cotton operatives (and two bricklayers) were employed, the excavators receiving 6*d.* per cubic yard, and averaged 2*s.* 8*d.* per day, the fillers-up 3*d.* per cubic yard, and averaged 2*s.* 4*d.* per day, working six days of 10 hours.

“Any occasional job requiring to be paid for as day work is at the rate of 2*s.* 6*d.* per day.

“A return is forwarded to the Relief Committee weekly ; and as they select the men to be employed, and choose those with large families, if less has been earned than the family would have received from the Committee they make up the difference.

“I would draw especial attention to the private works being executed by the Lord of the Manor through his agent, William Bass, Esq., who is employing, under the superintendence of the Local Surveyor, 42 cotton operatives and colliers out of employ, who were in receipt of relief, in removing an old coal-pit heap, filling up an old shaft, and making new streets. The men receive 5*d.* per cubic yard for making the streets, and average 3*s.* 2*d.* per day, and for filling up the shaft 2*d.* per cubic yard, and average 2*s.* 8*d.* per day of nine hours. They have the additional privilege of taking any coal they may find home to their families, and have averaged five days work per week.

“The Surveyor speaks in the highest terms of both the ability and conduct of the operatives at this work and the sewer, and remarks that although they feel it at first, after a few days they can stand it well.

“The adult schools were closed in the middle of the year, and the men employed on out-door labour in making new streets for the Lord of the Manor, who paid the Committee 2*d.* per cubic yard ; 506 were so employed, but on the 19th September the Relief Committee were reluctantly compelled to discontinue the relief, in consequence, I am informed, of the diminished grant from the Central Relief Committee.

GLOSSOP.

Lord Edward Howard, who owns large property in Glossop, has taken a very active personal interest in the welfare of the operatives in the district, and has dealt liberally by bestowing both time and wealth for their benefit.

The works that have been commenced are entirely on Lord Edward Howard's property, and manual labour is paid for,

at ordinary wages, for many of the unemployed cotton operatives.

Mr. Oram, in whose district Glossop is, thus reports upon the operation of the Public Works Act there:—

“The following plan is adopted for the employment of recipients of relief. The relieving officer selects a certain number of suitable persons from his books, and the list is submitted to the Board of Guardians, and orders made accordingly.

“Relief is then given for one week, and the name struck out of the Guardians’ books, and transferred to public works. A public works ticket is given, and on applying to the superintendent the man obtains tools and sets to work, and if he loses or breaks his tools he must provide himself with new ones.

“In the selection, as a general rule, they arrange for men with large families to cut drains in enclosed lands, at the rate of $10\frac{1}{2}d.$ per rood for a 4-foot drain; single men to fill up the drains at $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ per rood; and men with small families delving moorland at $1s. 1d.$ per rood.

“A few tile layers are employed at $2s. 6d.$ per day, and boys as tile carriers at $5s.$ per week, or $10d.$ per day; the tile carriers being selected from the workers who have large families.

“The moorland is staked out in pieces of two roods, and generally two men work together.

“In draining there are generally three men in a gang, but no man is compelled to gang himself with another, it being left to their own arrangement.

“At the Reservoir the men receive $3d.$ per cubic yard for removing earth.

“I was favoured with the following information by Mr. W. S. Bowden, clerk to the Public Works Committee:

“On the week ending 20th November, there were 216 men employed on the public works, of which number 160 were cotton operatives. The total amount paid as wages (inclusive of wages of superintendents, tile layers, &c.) was $120l. 1s. 6d.$

“The total number of persons dependent upon the 216 thus employed was 450, making a total of 666 persons, who would probably have otherwise been receiving parochial relief.

“In the hamlet of Charlesworth 78 men were engaged in draining, 47 of whom were cotton operatives; 1,051 rods had been completed, for which $50l. 2s.$ had been paid. The average earnings per day (of 9 hours) of the factory operatives was $2s. 5d.$, and of the out-door labourers $2s. 8d.$; the highest amount earned during the week by the former being $1l. 3s. 11\frac{1}{4}d.$, and the latter the same amount, viz. $1l. 3s. 11\frac{1}{4}d.$ The earnings of 14 of the men were as follows:—

			£	s.	d.	
2 skilled labourers	-	-	1	3	$11\frac{1}{4}$	each.
1 factory operative	-	-	1	3	$11\frac{1}{4}$	
2 factory operatives	-	-	1	1	$7\frac{1}{4}$	each.
3 factory operatives	-	-	1	0	$11\frac{1}{2}$	each.
2 labourers	-	-	0	19	$11\frac{1}{2}$	each.
1 factory operative	-	-	0	19	$11\frac{1}{2}$	
3 factory operatives	-	-	0	18	$2\frac{1}{2}$	each.

"Thirty-five of the men were engaged in filling up, to whom 8*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.* had been paid; the average earnings per day being 1*s.* 3*d.*

"There were 43 men on the works at Mossy Lea, 40 of whom were cotton operatives; 2 were employed in walling, 3 in road making, and 38 in delving.

"The total amount paid was 19*l.* 4*s.* 5½*d.*, viz., walling 1*l.* 4*s.*, road-making 1*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.*, and 16*l.* 4*s.* 5½*d.* for the 292½ roods which had been dug during the week. The average earnings per day (9 hours) of those engaged in walling was 2*s.*, road-making 2*s.* 6*d.*, and delving 2*s.* 2*d.*

"Eleven men were employed at the Swineshaw reservoir, of whom four were factory operatives. The amount paid in wages during the week was 5*l.* 6*s.* 9½*d.*; the average earnings per day (9 hours) being 2*s.* 5*d.*

"Twenty-three men were employed at the Picknase reservoir, of whom 20 were factory operatives; the amount paid as wages being 16*l.* 1*s.*, and the average earnings per day 2*s.* 6*d.*

"The following is a summary of labour, &c. for the week :—

Description of work.	Total number of men employed.		Number employed at piece or measured work.	Number em- ployed.		Total amount of wages paid.	Number of men and their earnings per week.							
	Skilled.	Factory opera- tives.		As regular day labourers.	As short time for relief.		Under 5 <i>s.</i>	5 <i>s.</i> and under 7 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>	7 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> and un- der 10 <i>s.</i>	10 <i>s.</i> and under 12 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>	12 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> and un- der 15 <i>s.</i>	15 <i>s.</i> and under 17 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>	17 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> and un- der 20 <i>s.</i>	20 <i>s.</i> and up- wards.
Draining - -	32	51	81	2	—	£ s. d. 52 14 7½	8	2	28	3	13	5	13	11
Filling up drains - -	5	30	35	—	—	8 4 3½	17	13	5	—	—	—	—	—
Delving - -	1	37	38	—	—	16 4 5½	7	6	11	8	5	1	—	—
Road making - -	1	13	—	12	2	9 14 10	—	—	2	2	—	10	—	—
Walling - -	2	—	2	—	—	1 4 0	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Removing earth and making puddle gut- ters, &c. at Reservoir	10	24	33	1	—	21 7 9½	—	4	4	4	3	16	2	1
Superintendents, tile layers, &c. - -	5	5	—	10	—	7 15 10½	—	—	—	1	—	7	1	1
	56	160	189	25	2	117 5 10½	32	25	50	20	21	39	16	13

"In a subsequent Report the Clerk to the Public Works states that on the 24th December the average earnings per day of the factory operatives in draining was only 1*s.* 9½*d.*, and the outdoor labourers 2*s.* 3*d.*, which is accounted for by the high and stony nature of the ground at Blackshaw, where they were then working, most of the men not earning half as much as they did in Gamesley, but it is hoped that as they leave the high ground it will be found free from stones and better cutting.

"In addition to public works, 254 men were employed by the Guardians in obtaining stone from a quarry and levelling earth, for which they receive at the rate of 3*d.* per hour, working a sufficient number of hours to make up the amount of relief given."

HASLINGDEN.

In Mr. Rawlinson's Report to Mr. Villiers, dated 12 June last, he thus forcibly points out the necessity of immediate improvement in the town of Haslingden:—

“There is no Local Act in force, nor any form of local governing body other than the parish authorities. The population of the township of Haslingden is about 10,000, and the rateable value upwards of 20,000*l*.”

“The population of the town proper is upwards of 5,000. There are some main drains, but no system of main sewers. House drains are an exception, not the rule; and from the defective forms and constructions of the main drains, where used for draining water closets they become nuisances. Many of the streets are unformed and unpaved. Cesspits are crowded behind cottages, and as a consequence fever and other diseases of a similar character prevail. There is to be a supply of water from a company. In site, in subsoil, and in the purity of the surrounding atmosphere, Haslingden possesses advantages which with proper sanitary arrangements would secure to the inhabitants a higher state of health than is now found to prevail. Haslingden is a type of many other places to be found in the county palatine of Lancaster. Things remain as they are because there is a vague dread of some central power, and an undefined idea that sanitary works are necessarily attended with great and unproductive cost.”

An effort was made after Mr. Rawlinson's visit, to secure the adoption of the Local Government Act, but it did not succeed, and I am informed that there is no prospect of the Public Works Act being made available in the Haslingden district at present for the employment of the operatives.

The cotton operatives are employed at out-door labour by the Board of Guardians as a test in this district.

HEYWOOD.

Nothing has been done in the town of Heywood towards adopting the Public Works Act, but in one of the townships (Heap) the Local Government Act has been adopted. The unemployed operatives have been set to labour on private contracts to a limited extent by the Relief Committee.

MANCHESTER.

This was another town for which I requested Mr. Oram to procure me information respecting the Public Works Act. He reports,—

“Public works have been commenced in Manchester, the operatives being employed in ‘stripping and excavating,’ to obtain clay for puddling, in the fields adjoining the piece of

ground on the Prestwich Hills, where a new reservoir is to be formed. The work has been let to a contractor, and the Waterworks Committee connected with the Corporation forwarded the following resolution to the Board of Guardians :

“ ‘ That a general description of the works which it is proposed at once to execute in connection with the intended reservoir at Prestwich be transmitted by the town clerk to the Board of Guardians for the township of Manchester, and that they be informed that this Committee, being desirous, so far as may be practicable, to offer to them the opportunity of finding occupation for unemployed able-bodied men, is prepared to agree with the Guardians for the execution of such work at prices to be arranged between this Committee and the Guardians.’ ”

“ It does not appear whether the Corporation wished the works to be partially undertaken by labour for relief, as is the case with the Pendleton sewer in the Salford Union, or whether they intended in the agreement proposed to fix a scale of remuneration for the able-bodied men on the books of the Guardians ; but the Guardians considering it desirable that all the men should be employed as independent labourers, passed a resolution that ‘ the payment by Boards of Guardians of wages in return for labour to poor persons chargeable or seeking to become chargeable upon the rates, or the holding themselves responsible for the providing of such labour for wages—thus impairing the self-reliance of the poor—is opposed to the whole spirit and intent of the Poor Law, and is inexpedient both upon social and economical grounds.’ ”

“ The Guardians send as many men as are applied for to work as ordinary labourers under the contractor ; and on visiting the works on the 6th of January 82 men were employed, 14 of whom were skilled labourers and acted as instructors of the 68 unskilled ; 52 were sent by the Manchester Guardians, and the remainder had been recipients of relief in other townships in the union. The men selected by the Guardians in the first place are all mill hands, as they consider that this was the intention of the legislature. For the first week the men selected have relief given them, the three succeeding weeks half relief, and are then struck off the books. Arrangements have been made with the Relief Committee to supply them with suitable clothing.

“ The men receive for stripping the ground $\frac{3}{4}d.$, $1d.$, and $1\frac{1}{4}d.$ per yard, and $4d.$ per cubic yard for excavating.

“ On the week previous to my visit the average earnings per day of each gang was as follows :—

1.	-	-	Broken up.
2.	-	-	$11\frac{1}{4}d.$ per day.
3.	-	-	$1s. 6d.$ „
4.	-	-	$1s. 4d.$ „
5.	-	-	$2s. 10d.$ „
6.	-	-	$1s. 2d.$ „
7.	-	-	$1s.$ „

“ Each day averaging about seven hours.

"No. 5. was a picked gang and found so efficient, that four men were removed as independent workmen to the contractor's works at Clayton at 17s. per week.

"There was a misunderstanding at first on the question of wages, but the men are working willingly and diligently, and will probably earn more after a little experience.

"I have selected a few cases showing the ordinary occupation and weekly earnings of the men employed at the public works.

"A.B., a self-acting minder, has a wife and two children. Obtained 4s. 9d. for five days, and the following week obtained work at his usual occupation.

"C.D., a self-acting minder, has a wife and four children, one of whom earns 3s. 6d. per week.

1st week obtained 3s. 3d. for $3\frac{1}{2}$ days.

2d " " 4s. 7d. for $4\frac{1}{2}$ days.

3d " " 2s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for 2 days.

"E.F., a self-acting minder, has a wife and three children.

1st week obtained 3s. 9d. for $4\frac{1}{2}$ days.

2d " " 5s. 8d. for 5 days.

3d " " 2s. 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. for 2 days.

"G.H., a twister, wife and one child.

1st week obtained 4s. 9d. for $4\frac{1}{2}$ days.

2d " " 4s. 6d. for $4\frac{1}{2}$ days.

"I.J., a grinder, wife but no family.

1st week obtained 5s. 5d. for $4\frac{3}{4}$ days.

2d " " 6s. 6d. for 5 days.

3d " " 3s. 0d. for 2 days.

4th " " 11s. 4d. for 4 days.

"This was one of No. 5 gang, who has been removed to the contractor's work at Clayton.

"K.L. (blowing room hand), wife and two children.

1st week obtained 5s. 5d. for $4\frac{3}{4}$ days.

2d " " 6s. 6d. for 5 days.

3d " " 4s. 0d. for 3 days.

4th " " 11s. 4d. for 4 days.

"The same remark may be made as in the case of I.J.

"M.N. (overlooker of power looms), wife and two children.

1st week 4s. 9d. for $4\frac{1}{2}$ days.

2d " 5s. 4d. for 5 days.

3d " 2s. 8d. for $2\frac{1}{2}$ days.

"O.P. (minder), wife and four children.

1st week 4s. 0d. for $4\frac{3}{4}$ days.

2d " 3s. 4d. for 3 days.

3d " 2s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for 2 days.

"Q.R. (minder), one child who earns 1s. 9d.

1st week 4s. 0d. for $4\frac{3}{4}$ days.

2d " 3s. 2d. for 4 days.

3d " 1s. 4d. for 1 day.

"S.T. (weaver), wife and two children.

1st week 4s. 0d. for $4\frac{1}{2}$ days.

2d " 6s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for 5 days.

3d " 2s. 7d. for 2 days.

"The men are working steadily, and in succeeding weeks (weather permitting) there is every probability of an improvement in the amount earned; and as everything is now in working order, there appears no obstacle, except the weather, to their making the full week. The works are about 3 miles from Manchester in a very exposed position, and there is no hut to shelter the men at meal times, who are consequently compelled to resort to a beer house in the neighbourhood; but I am informed that a place of shelter will be erected very shortly."

OLDHAM.

This town being in the district of Mr. Oram, he has informed me that,—

"During the past six months, a large number of able-bodied men have been employed by the Relief Committee in drainage works at the cemetery, and in the removal of mounds of earth for the formation of new streets, a certain sum being paid to the Committee for the work performed. The men received 3*d.* per hour for such time as would make up the amount of relief granted. 319 men were so employed by the Committee in August, and by the last returns 130 are employed at present in the removal of the mounds above referred to.

"The public works have been commenced, 25,000*l.* having been granted for a public park, and 75,000*l.* are intended to be applied for, for 'sewerage, paving, flagging, and channeling of private streets.'

"The land for the park is situated in Sheepwash Valley, and consists of 58 acres, exclusive of 10 acres reserved by the Council for future disposal, the whole having been purchased at a cost, including compensation and other expenses, of 17,000*l.*, leaving 8,000*l.* for the works to be executed on it.

"About 50 men are now employed in the park; the whole of whom are unskilled operatives; they work in gangs of 8 or 10 men in a gang, those on piece work receiving 1*d.* per square yard for stripping the land, those on day work being paid after the rate of 3½*d.* per hour. The men working on piece work have earned, on an average, since they commenced, 15*s.* 6*d.* per week per man. The men are working very willingly, and I am informed by Mr. Lynam, the borough surveyor, who has favoured me with the above particulars, have given every satisfaction. The works of sewerage, paving, &c. of private streets will be commenced on the 11th January, when a further number of men will be employed.*

OVER DARWEN.

In the last week of December 1863 there were 30 men employed upon sewerage, drainage, and paving works, 20 of

* Several operatives have been set to work since the date of this report of Mr. Oram's.

whom had been factory operatives. 10 of these men are employed on piece work, earning on an average 1s. per day. The others are paid wages ranging from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 4d. per day. The number of persons dependent upon the 20 factory operatives is 42.

PRESTON.

The following is an extract from Mr. Oram's Report upon Preston:—

"1,039 men are employed at the cattle market, and works at Spa Brow by the Board of Guardians in levelling and filling up certain ground for building purposes, and in the formation of a new cattle market; the Corporation paying the Guardians 8d. and 9d. per cubic yard for the works at Spa Brow, and 6d. per cubic yard for the cattle market.

"The men all work by the day, and not by the piece, and are tasked to wheel 140 filled barrows on a run of 30 yards as a day's work; the single men receiving 1s. per day, and are allowed to work $2\frac{1}{2}$ days per week. The married men work in the same way as the single, and are allowed an additional number of days work according to their families, as for instance:—

	s.	d.	
Man and his wife	1	0	per day, for four days.
Do. with four children	9	0	weekly, work five days.
Do. with five children	10	6	weekly, work five days.
Do. with six children	12	0	weekly, work five days.

"None are employed more than five days by the guardians, but the allowance to married men with families, who are cotton operatives, is supplemented in many cases by the Relief Committee, who require them to work on one day on Ribbleton Moor, in levelling, delving, and preparing the land for building purposes, for which they receive 3d. per hour, the Relief Committee having entered into a contract with the Ribbleton Freehold Land Society to do certain works for 1,250l. paid by them, the Committee finding all needful tools.

"724 men were employed on the Moor by the Relief Committee on the last week in December, two thirds at least of whom, I was informed, were Guardians' cases, and consequently are included in the following return of men employed under that board:—

December Quarter, 1863.

	Cattle Market.	Spa Brow.	Marsh, &c.	Stone- yard.	Ribble.	Walton- le-Dale.
6th week	- 714	341	88	42	20	68
7th week	- 701	344	76	40	16	70
8th week	- 683	330	110	40	—	70
9th week	- 685	307	118	47	—	66
10th week	- 683	322	110	49	—	73
11th week	- 688	344	110	55	—	70

"Only 56 men are employed at ordinary wages, of whom 40 are cotton operatives. They are under the Board of Health,

and earned from 1s. 10d. to 2s. 8d. per day, according to the value of the work done."

ROCHDALE.

No public works have been commenced, but the able-bodied men were employed by the Board of Guardians as under, for relief:—

185 on the Bury Road improvement.

24 digging foundation for Marland new workhouse.

174 in wool picking.

383

Some of the able-bodied men were employed during the year by the Relief Committee in out-door labour, but it has been discontinued.

SALFORD.

Mr. Oram has given me the following details, respecting this borough.

"No public works have been as yet commenced in Salford, with the exception of what has been undertaken by the Board of Guardians, but they have employed all the able-bodied men on their books in out-door labour, sewerage, stone-breaking, and road repairing, whilst the temporarily disabled and the elderly attend an adult class established by the Board.

"Some have been employed by the Guardians in levelling land for a manure depot, riddling gravel, and dressing old bricks, receiving ordinary relief from the parish, and working four days per week; but this was discontinued at the time of my visit, when the able-bodied men were employed as follows:—

"120 in making the Pendleton main sewer for the Corporation, the Guardians providing both men and tools. In addition to the labourers provided by the Guardians, eight skilled labourers were employed.

"The men from the Board of Guardians are divided into relays; the first coming at 7 in the morning, and working until 12; the second commencing at 1 o'clock, and working until 4; the men who work in the morning of one day being employed on the afternoon of the next, and all cease work on Saturdays at 12 o'clock.

"20 men were employed in repairing the Eccles new road, the hours being from 8 till 12, and $\frac{1}{2}$ past 1 to 4 o'clock; but they commence at one o'clock on Mondays, which gives them an opportunity of seeking work in the morning; and they cease work on Saturdays at 12 o'clock.

"36 men were employed in a stone yard and gravel pit, the hours being similar to those engaged in repairing the roads.

"All have to work the hours mentioned, during the whole week, for the relief given by the Guardians.

“None are employed in out-door labour by the Relief Committee, but as they supplement the relief given by the Guardians, many on their books are employed on the works above-mentioned.”

STALEYBRIDGE.

As in most of the towns in the cotton districts, the mass of the able-bodied men are employed on labour for relief. 325 are working for the Relief Committee in removing a sandhill and filling up an old stone quarry, for which the Lord of the Manor (— Astley, Esq.) pays the Committee 2*d.* per cubic yard. They are divided into three sets, each working 12 hours per week, at 3*d.* per hour, thereby earning the same wages as they formerly received at the adult school.

The number of men employed under the Public Works Act in making drains, sewers, &c. was on the 8th December as follows:—43 cotton operatives and 6 labourers were employed on piece-work, in “excavating trenches for sewers,” at 5*d.* per cubic yard for getting out, and 4*d.* per cubic yard for filling in; 9 cotton operatives were employed on day work at 2*s.* 6*d.* per day; 15 labourers at 2*s.* 8*d.* per day; and 6 skilled workmen. It is estimated that the unskilled labour will be 33 $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.

The following is an account of the rate per day of the different gangs during the week preceding the 8th December.

			s.	d.	
1. Skilled (day work)	-	6 men at	2	8	per day.
2. Cotton operatives	-	6	2	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	„
3. Mixed	-	6	2	8	„
4. Cotton operatives	-	6	2	2	„
5. Cotton operatives	-	5	2	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	„
6. Cotton operatives	-	5	2	3	„
7. Cotton operatives	-	4	2	6	day work.
8. Skilled	-	6	2	8	„

The remainder employed in carting, assisting bricklayers, &c.

OSWALDTWISTLE, GREAT HARWOOD, AND CLAYTON-LE-MOORS.

In Oswaldtwistle and Great Harwood the Local Government Act has been adopted, and loans under the provisions of the Public Works Act have been applied for and sanctioned by the Poor Law Board. The chief expenditure in both places will be incurred for sewerage.

At neither place have the works been actually commenced.

At Clayton-le-Moors (which includes Enfield and Oakenshaw) the adoption of the Local Government Act is about to be completed, with the view of taking advantage of the Public Works Act.

RAWTENSTALL.

At Rawtenstall the Local Government Act is about to be adopted.

As a resumé of the preceding account of the operatives in the different towns, I append, in a tabular form, statements of the number of persons employed in them under the Public Works Act about the end of December or beginning of January. This statement differs somewhat from a Return recently made by Mr. Maclure for the Manchester committee. According to his Return, there were 48 factory operatives said to be employed under the Public Works Act at Bambridge, who I have been informed are not employed upon public works, and 200 at Rochdale who are not, but probably will be, employed in road making in that town eventually, under the Public Works Act. The number of the skilled workmen is not stated in Mr. Maclure's Return; in my Return it is put at 432, about one-fourth of the whole number.

Name of Locality.	Description of Employment.	No. of Persons employed.			
		Factory Operatives.	Other Labourers.	Skilled Workmen.	Total.
Accrington - - -	Sewers, drains, &c. - -	22	40	24	86
Ashton-under-Lyne - -	Sewering, paving, flagging -	91	—	100	191
Blackburn - - -	Sewers, drainage, &c. - -	652	—	227	879
Dukinfield, King Street	Sewers - - -	21	24	3	48
" Tame Valley - -	Sewers - - -	40	—	2	42
Glossop - - -	Reservoir, draining land, &c. -	160	—	56	216
Manchester - - -	Reservoir - - -	68	—	14	82
Oldham - - -	Laying out park - - -	50	—	—	50
Over Darwen - - -	Sewerage, draining, &c. - -	20	10	—	30
Preston - - -	- - -	40	16	—	56
Staleybridge - - -	Sewerage, drains, &c. - -	52	21	6	79
		1,416	111	432	1,759

So much preliminary inquiry has been necessary in some cases, that the Public Works Act is not in as extensive operation as might have been anticipated. In some towns, immediate effect was given to the spirit of the Act, by the employment of operatives upon works in anticipation of their being approved and loans granted for them as at Blackburn, Ashton, and other places; but the difficulty of setting operatives to work upon a new kind of labour, and so organizing a scheme that the work should be properly done, while the operatives should earn a fair day's wages for a day's work,

has been very considerable, considering that the public works which have been commenced, have not been undertaken by the local public bodies having control over the operatives in the receipt of relief. It is most satisfactory to find what a large proportion of factory operatives have been set to work, and, although the wages earned are, as I have shown, much below what is necessary for an operative's family, yet we may look to a rapid improvement in this respect as the spring advances, and the hands become more accustomed to the work.

The statements of the sums earned by the factory operatives employed upon public works have been given, in order to show that very great consideration should be given to the case of these operatives. The Manchester committee have made arrangements by which relief is given to operatives for the first six weeks of their being employed upon public works; but I trust that this rule may be further extended, should the operatives not be able to earn more per family than they would have received when receiving relief.

It will be seen by the statements from the several towns, that the operatives have given great satisfaction, both as to conduct, and readiness to undertake the new labour found for them. I cannot sum up this subject better than by quoting a letter from Mr. Henderson the chairman of the labour committee of Blackburn, giving his personal experience in that town. Nothing can be more cheering than his opinion of the out-door operatives under the Public Works Act, and as more has been done at Blackburn than in any other town under the provisions of the Act, his testimony is most valuable, as it proves the efficacy of the Act when carried out with energy and judgment:—

“Nothing in my experience, during the present period of suffering and distress, has struck me more forcibly or given me more satisfaction, than the cheerful alacrity with which the unemployed operatives of this district have accepted of the work offered to them through the adoption of the Public Works Act, by the Corporation of Blackburn. A greater contrast than that presented between the cotton spinner as a skilled workman in a factory, and as a labourer in a sewer 14 or 18 feet deep, can scarcely be conceived. Accustomed as he has been to a temperature all but tropical, to work at which agility and delicacy of manipulation availed him infinitely more than muscular strength and to double and sometimes treble the remuneration which it is possible for him now to obtain, his ready acceptance of the proffered employment involved an amount of self denial and consideration the exercise of which is most creditable. In Blackburn the men have been tested at almost every variety of out-door work; in excavating a stiff heavy clay soil to a considerable depth, in draining, in stone breaking, in road making, and in excavating for street sewers to a depth of 14, 16, and sometimes 20 feet.

In many cases while thus employed they are standing in mud and water to the depth of 10 or 12 inches, and in all they are exposed to a climate which, for chilly humidity is not surpassed I suppose, even if it is equalled, by that of any district in England. Yet, notwithstanding these disadvantages, I am free to say that although I have been in daily contact with the men and their superintendents, I have not heard a single complaint as to the nature of the work the men were set to execute, except in cases of sickness or bodily infirmity, and these even I am glad to say have been rare. Whatever may be the shortcomings of the Lancashire operative, so far as my experience has enabled me to judge, it cannot be said of him with truth, that he is either afraid or ashamed to work. Dig he can, although to beg he is ashamed. Several months before the Public Works Act became Law, hundreds of the factory operatives of Blackburn had a favourable opportunity of becoming initiated in out-door work. Through the Labour Committee, which is composed of an equal number of the members of the Board of Guardians and of the Local Relief Committee, employment was found for them on private contracts. In the execution of these works, not unfrequently something required to be done which called for the exercise of more thought and reflection than was involved by the mere handling of a spade or mattock ; and in such cases the facility with which the cotton operative applied the intelligence he possessed, to an occupation which was quite new to him, was very gratifying, and indicated not only that he accepted his new employment with cheerfulness, but that like a good workman he took an interest in the labour he had in hand however foreign it was to his previous habits and training. I may add that the opinions I have thus expressed respecting the conduct of the operatives at this time are shared in by every gentleman with whom I have talked on the matter, and whose position and professional experience have afforded opportunities of seeing the men at work, and of forming an opinion on the question."

EMIGRATION OF OPERATIVES, AND MIGRATION TO THE FACTORY DISTRICTS.

It appears from the Returns of the Manchester Committee that there are 33,969 fewer persons of the operative class in the cotton districts than in 1862 ; and it is estimated that 18,244 of these have emigrated, and 15,725 have obtained some kind of employment or other within the cotton districts. It is supposed in the same Return that about 4,000 are employed in neighbouring districts.

There is no doubt that in some districts the emigration has been considerable ; for instance, above 1,323 persons have emigrated from Heywood in the past year, and it is known in other places that large numbers have left their own neighbourhood for America and the colonies ; but the number, taking even the excess of 1863 over 1862 from the port

of Liverpool, would not make any great difference in the amount of distress in the cotton districts. Emigration was mainly left to commend itself to the operatives. Some of the colonies had agents in various towns to afford information and assistance ; but in general the people who left were unconnected with any public or general movement in favour of emigration. It was proposed that a mutual association should be formed, to be called the "Cotton Districts Emigration Society" for promoting by means of district societies the emigration of the members ; but it did not make much progress, having been superseded by local societies acting independently of each other.

There have been other influences at work to cause an emigration from the port of Liverpool in 1863 of above twice the number of the previous year.

The number of persons, according to the Returns furnished from Liverpool, who sailed from that port, either for foreign countries or for the colonies in the year 1862, was 64,314. In 1863 the number had increased to 137,982, an excess of 73,668.

The places for which the steerage passage emigrants sailed from Liverpool were as follows :—

	1862.	1863.
For the United States -	44,673	98,458
Canada, &c. - - -	6,217	2,477
Australian Colonies and New Zealand - - -	12,565	18,640
	<u>63,455</u>	<u>119,575</u>

When, however, the nationality of the emigrant is ascertained, a clue to the cause of this great increase will be apparent, and it will be seen how little the increase has to do with the cotton crisis.

The following is a Return of the countries to which the steerage passage emigrants belonged who sailed from Liverpool for the United States :—

	1862.	1863.
England - - -	13,185	28,548
Scotland - - -	830	3,176
Ireland - - -	22,418	61,312
	<u>36,433</u>	<u>93,036</u>

Of those who sailed from Liverpool for Canada, the Australian Colonies, and New Zealand, the numbers were from :—

		1862.	1863.
England	- -	6,763	9,525
Scotland	- -	1,561	1,895
Ireland	- -	5,231	9,130
		<u>13,555</u>	<u>20,550</u>

The preponderance of Irish emigrants to the United States, and the increased proportion of them during the last year, coupled with the fact that the large proportion of them were young men, will show to what this great exodus has been due and how small comparatively has the emigration been from the cotton districts.

In order, however, to trace, if I could, any migration to Yorkshire, I requested the certifying surgeons to communicate to me any facts which may serve to show to what extent Lancashire hands have settled, either temporarily or permanently in Yorkshire.

From the information they supplied to me I do not think that there are now employed in factories in Yorkshire more than 1,000 of the cotton operatives who would represent between three and four thousand persons. During the earlier part of the crisis many persons passed through the different manufacturing towns of Yorkshire, especially in the woollen and worsted districts, where work has been particularly active, and in which labour has been scarce; but although many were taken on, they generally left in a week or two, and only a few obtained permanent work.

The nature of the work in the woollen districts is altogether different from the cotton manufacture; the habits of the people too are to some extent dissimilar, the economy of the mills is also unlike and the wages less than in the cotton districts. The hands were, therefore, unprepared for the work of a woollen mill, and having to begin as "learners" their wages would be very small at first, and this would be one cause of their not remaining in the woollen districts; some again left rather from feeling their inability to satisfy the full requirements of the manufacturer, than from their feeling of dissatisfaction at the nature of the work.

Mr. Whympers, sub-inspector for the Huddersfield district, writes to me as follows, upon the increase of hands in the neighbourhood of Saddleworth:—

"There has been an undoubted influx to the woollen districts of Saddleworth; evidence of it is to be seen on all sides, in renovated cottages, &c., but the extent is difficult to ascertain. It is estimated that not more than 30 per cent. of those who have come remain and are satisfied with the new employment."

It should, however, be observed that this flow of hands into Saddleworth is only a return of the exodus from this district to the cotton districts from 1849 to 1859.

Mr. C. A. Hemingway, certifying surgeon of Dewsbury, a very important woollen district, informs me that,—

“There have been about 1,000 operatives from the cotton districts applying for employment at mills; only a few of these have succeeded in obtaining work. At one mill 300, and at another 150 have applied for work; and although about 100 were employed at one time, that number is now less than half.”

Mr. Allbutt, certifying surgeon of Batley, says upon this point:—

“Not understanding the woollen trade, they could not obtain employment, and returned home.”

Mr. Morehouse, of Stoneybank, certifying surgeon in the centre of a woollen district, says,—

“In the early part of the cotton famine great numbers of distressed operatives found their way here. Very few, however, settled in the district.”

The same want of adaptability was shown in their employment in flax factories. Mr. Price, certifying surgeon of Leeds, says:—

“About 20 people are and have been in employment, chiefly with Messrs. ———; in some instances hands have gone away dissatisfied with the work and wages.”

The worsted trade would seem to offer to cotton operatives a better prospect than either the woollen or flax factories; but although many hundreds of hands were wanted in the worsted districts, only a few presented themselves, and the proportion who obtained continuous employment was very small.

Mr. Trimmer, the sub-inspector at Halifax, whom I requested to report to me as to the migration in his district, says:—

“In the valley from Luddenden to Wanistalls, which you know is so short a distance from Todmorden, the occupiers of worsted factories are in want of some description of hands.”

Mr. Poppleton, the certifying surgeon of Bradford, reports as follows:—

“During the last two years employment could have been found at very high wages for 2,000 or 3,000 hands, but at no part of that period has the migration reached as many hundreds.”

Mr. Bramley, the certifying surgeon of Halifax, writes to me:—

“A great number of adults, both male and female, have sought and obtained employment during the past year; in one firm as many as 100; but they principally live in lodgings, and will doubtless return to their homes as soon as they can get employ-

ment there. As far as I can gather from the employers, they do not settle well, or seem satisfied with the work."

Mr. Farrer, certifying surgeon of Brighouse, a district in which there are several cotton-spinning mills, as well as silk, worsted, and woollen mills, reports as follows:—

"A few months since, there were between 20 and 30 hands, chiefly from Mossley and Staleybridge, employed in one of the silk mills; however, from some cause or other, they were not satisfied, and returned to their own districts in Lancashire. We have had hands passing through the village on tramps set on in the mills, and after working a week or so have left. Hence there have been few hands come into this district from Lancashire."

The evidence which I have just quoted shows that the operatives have been disinclined to leave their neighbourhood during the crisis. I have been assured that operatives have accepted work with regret at a mill to which they were not accustomed, lest they should lose their chance of obtaining work at their old mill. The desire to remain at home was probably fostered indirectly by the masters; they feared to lose their best hands; a feeling which ought to surprise none, and is certainly very intelligible to those who are acquainted with the factory system; for not only does the manufacturer depend upon his machinery, but perhaps more upon the steadiness and ability of his hands; and looking forward to the recovery of the cotton trade from its present depression, he keeps within his reach the means whereby his mill can be worked in the most advantageous manner. Although it may be sometimes reported that hands are wanted in some districts, and are not to be had from the cotton districts, I believe it would be found upon inquiry that some good reason exists, not patent at the time, to render it difficult for the hands to accept the work offered.

The question of rent again has been in the way of a large migration of hands. The owners of much of the house property were unwilling to part with their tenants, because they expected to be reimbursed in part when the cotton trade revived; and the loss of the rent of the description of houses occupied by the operatives has been most severely felt. I have been informed that in one district, from which there has been a large exodus in comparison with the number of inhabitants, that there are now 1,000 cottages empty, representing a loss in rent to the owners of at least 6,000*l.* a year. Many manufacturers are owners of the houses in which operatives employed in their mills reside, and some unquestionably expect to obtain a portion of the back rent owing. Sometimes work has been offered to operatives on condition that they should occupy vacant houses belonging to the manufacturer; this might have been advantageous to him, in obtaining tenants for his vacant cottages, but not

so to operatives who would have to borrow money to remove and then to pay full rent, and to repay their loan out of wages, which as I have shown would probably be at a reduced rate.

But it must not be supposed that there has been any backwardness in the operatives in endeavouring to obtain work in the cotton mills in their own proper occupation. Occasionally statements appeared in the public papers, that in such a district there was a want of weavers, and in another district closely adjoining it, that there were hundreds of operatives idle. I enquired particularly as to the correctness of statements of this nature made some time since with respect to Blackburn. I was told that weavers were very scarce in the surrounding neighbourhoods, and that there were nevertheless a large number of cotton operatives receiving relief at that town. The result of my inquiry was, that at Blackburn every family in which there was an unemployed weaver, warper, or winder had been struck off the list, so that they should be forced to seek work where hands were required, and that great strictness was exercised in respect to the spinners and minders, &c. upon the relief lists. Mr. Oram has been good enough to give me the result of his own experience in tracing out a statement of this kind. He says:—

“In consequence of statements similar to those referred to, letters were sent by the Relief Committee in Ashton-under-Lyne, offering to make arrangements for sending a number of weavers, but in every case without the offer being accepted. I had a conversation with one or two influential gentlemen who were complaining of the operatives not working, and said there were looms standing at a particular mill. I immediately enquired the name of the mill, and whether the millowner had made his wants known, and was informed that he considered it *infra dig.* for the manager to be seeking hands. I replied that unless the operatives knew he was prepared to employ an additional number of hands of course they were not to blame, and that being the Sub-Inspector of the adjoining district, and knowing something about the operatives in Ashton-under-Lyne, if the millowner would communicate with me I would personally guarantee to find him as many hands as he required.”

The Relief Committees acted with great strictness upon this point. If work was offered, the operatives to whom it was proposed were struck off the lists, and thus compelled to accept the offer. When they objected to accept work, I believe the cause has been that their earnings would have been merely nominal, and the work exceedingly severe, arising from the inferiority of the cotton used, from the desire to obtain work in mills in which the best kinds of cotton are manufactured, and that when they have had the prospect of work in other districts, they had no means of removing, and they were unable to satisfy any portion of the claim for rent.

I have heard the strongest expressions of anxiety for work, and have seen most convincing proofs of the eagerness of the operatives for work; and never was this feeling shown in a more remarkable manner than on the occasion of my visiting a sewing school held in two large rooms of the factory of Mr. O. Whittaker at Hurst, near Ashton-under-Lyne, one of the foremost of the manufacturers in making, at great sacrifices, the most excellent arrangements for his operatives during the stoppage of his mills. The females, all above 16, probably between 300 and 400, were of a superior class, very clean, neatly dressed, and healthy looking. The afternoon of my visit was on the day before the re-opening of the mill for work; and having been accustomed to the quiet and regularity of the sewing schools in general, the aspect of this happy assembly at Hurst was most striking;—the women and girls cheerful and smiling when spoken to, hilarious in their mirth, singing snatches of choruses;—unable to keep the measure of *one* song, all ready to sing, but, in the fullness of their happiness, giving expression to their feelings by random verses, and yet there was no uproar, no rude mirth, but what I felt to be the genuine effusions of happy and contented minds.

SUPPLY OF COTTON.

I now propose to refer very briefly to the quantity of cotton consumed in this country.

The following is a statement from the circular of Messrs. Neill and Co., of the import of raw cotton in the year 1863. with extracts for the years 1861 and 1862 from the circular of Messrs. Ellison and Haywood:—

	1861.	1862.	1863.
	<u>Bales.</u>	<u>Bales.</u>	<u>Bales.</u>
America -	1,841,600	71,750	130,265
Brasil -	100,000	133,810	137,093
Egypt -	97,800	146,550	204,788
East India -	986,600	1,072,420	1,225,723
China -	—	—	164,934
Smyrna -	—	—	40,109
Other Places -	9,700	20,470	27,256
	<u>3,035,700</u>	<u>1,445,000</u>	<u>1,930,168</u>
Of which it is estimated that there were consumed in the United Kingdom -	2,363,600	1,185,500	1,377,600

According to the factory returns of 1861, there were 451,569 persons employed in the cotton mills in the United

Kingdom; if therefore the mills worked in 1862, for the same number of days as they did in 1861, there would have been employment only for 227,447 persons, and if the same work had continued in 1863, there would have been employment for 286,841 persons; but it is known that Surat cotton takes more working than American, and consequently a larger proportion of hands are employed upon the same quantity; it may be remembered for instance that few weavers are able to mind more than two looms upon Surat cotton, frequently only one, while upon American cotton, three looms were constantly under the care of one person. Messrs. Ellison and Heywood moreover estimate that the same number of hands would work up 11·3 per cent. less of Surat than of American cotton; and the number of operatives employed in 1863, will have been increased on this account.

In 1861 the average consumption per week, was 45,454 bales, in 1862 only 22,795, being about three days consumption per week, and in 1863 it had risen to 26,500 bales per week, being about three days and a half consumption. If the lowest of the estimates of the import of 1864 be realized, viz. that of Mr. Cheetham, who thinks the total will not exceed 2,445,000 bales, this quantity, after deducting 666,000 bales for export (the quantity exported last year), would give an average of 34,000 bales per week, or four and half days employment for the same number of mills as were in work in 1861.

The supply to be received during the course of the present year, has been keenly discussed, and estimated by those most competent to make calculations upon the subject. Mr. Ashworth and Mr. Cheetham published their opinions some time since, and other gentlemen have endeavoured to give some assurance for their expectations of the coming year. The following are several estimates as given in Messrs. Neill's circular of the 1st December last, to which I have added the estimate of Messrs. Ellison and Heywood, of the probable supply for 1864.

	Total Quantity imported in 1863.	Estimated import in 1864.				
		Messrs. Neill, Bros.	Mr. Ash- worth.	Mr. Cheet- ham.	Mr. Whit- worth.	Messrs. Ellison & Haywood.
America - - - - -	130	140	140	100	150	130,000
India - - - - -	1,225	1,650	1,520	1,590	1,650	1,750,000
Egypt - - - - -	204	300	290	300	325	280,000
Turkey and Greece - - -	40	140	350	150	220	140,000
Italy - - - - -	4	15	14	25	50	25,000
Brazil - - - - -	136	190		185	200	155,000
China - - - - -	164	200	471	150	250	250,000
All other places - - -	27	30		35	70	50,000
	1,930	2,665	2,785	2,445	2,915	2,780,000

The estimates are in thousands of bales, for convenience of arrangement.

The value of the cotton imported according to the accounts of Trade and Navigation and Messrs. Neill's circular, was in—

	£
1861	35,940,055
1862	23,597,844
1863	49,862,000

And the relative value of the cotton in three years, was as follows:—

	£
In 1861 the bale was worth about	10
1862	17
1863	25

It has been calculated that the cotton imported this year will cost the enormous sum of upwards £80,000,000. Messrs. Neill in their circular give the calculation by which they have arrived at that result; their estimate is as follows:—

	bales.	lbs.	d.	£
India	1,650,000	of 360	at 21	51,975,000
Egypt	300,000	550	26	17,531,000
America	140,000	440	26	6,673,000
Turkey and Greece	140,000	300	23	4,025,000
Brazil	190,000	190	26	3,911,000
China	200,000	200	20	3,334,000
Italy, &c.	15,000	440	23	632,000
Other Sources	30,000	200	23	575,000
				£88,656,000

If this calculation should prove correct, the bale of cotton this year will cost 33 $\frac{1}{2}$ %, at an average rate of nearly 2s. per lb.

A comparison of the prices of cotton and of yarns and cloth for the last few years will be found to possess some features of great interest, and especially of the relative variation in the price of the raw material and of the manufactured goods. The instructive and valuable reports of my late colleague, Mr. Horner, enable me to refer to the years 1848, 1850, and 1855, and to compare those years with the year 1863. In Mr. Horner's report for 1850, he gives the following return, showing the prices of cotton in 1848 and 1850:—

Description of Cotton.	Quality.	Year.	Price per lb.	Being an advance of
Bowed and Mobile	Ordinary	1848	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.	} Nearly 84 per cent.
"	"	1850	6 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to 6 $\frac{3}{8}$ d.	
"	Good	1848	4 $\frac{5}{8}$ d. to 5d.	} Nearly 56 per cent.
"	"	1850	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	
New Orleans	Ordinary	1848	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.	} About 82 per cent.
"	"	1850	6d. to 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.	
"	Good	1848	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.	} About 38 per cent.
"	"	1850	7 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.	

This return is followed by another showing the increase in the price of yarns and cloth,—

Description of the Article.	Quality.	Year.	Price per lb.	Being an advance of
No. 20, water twist - - -	Common	1848	6½d.	} About 30½ per cent.
„ - - -	„	1850	8d.	
„ - - -	First -	1848	7½d.	} About 34½ per cent.
„ - - -	„	1850	9½d.	
No. 30, mule twist - - -	Common	1848	6½d.	} About 46 per cent.
„ - - -	„	1850	9½d.	
„ - - -	First -	1848	8d.	} About 37½ per cent.
„ - - -	„	1850	11d.	
No. 40, mule twist - - -	Common	1848	7½d.	} About 47½ per cent.
„ - - -	„	1850	10½d.	
„ - - -	First -	1848	8¾d.	} About 37 per cent.
„ - - -	„	1850	12d.	
¾-72, reed printing cloth - -	29 yards	1848	Per piece. 4s. 9d.	} About 26½ per cent.
„ - - -	„	1850	6s.	
¼-66, reed T cloth - - -	24 yards	1848	6s. 6d.	} About 7¼ per cent.
„ - - -	„	1850	7s.	
¾-66, reed long cloth - - -	36 yards	1848	8s.	} About 9½ per cent.
„ - - -	„	1850	8s. 9d.	
¾-40, reed jaconits - - -	20 yards	1848	3s. 8d.	} About 25 per cent.
„ - - -	„	1850	4s. 7d.	

The above return shows how difficult it is for the manufacturer to raise his prices concurrently with a rise in the market of the raw material, and suggests the idea that manufacturers must be always advancing in improvements and economical working of their factories to enable them to meet these sudden changes in price.

Mr. Horner carries this comparison up to 1855, and I annex the variation between 1850 and that year, as given in Mr. Horner's report of the 31st October 1855.

1st May 1855.

Description of Cotton.	Quality.	Price per lb.	Being a reduction in price since 1850 of
Bowed and Mobile - - -	Ordinary	4¾d.	24 per cent.
„ - - -	Fair -	5¾d.	21 „
New Orleans - - -	Ordinary	4¾d.	18 „
„ - - -	Fair -	6¾d.	20 „

And in the last quoted report, Mr. Horner also gives the price of yarns and cloth as follows:—

1st May 1855.

Description of Article.	Quality.	Price per lb.	Being a reduction in price since 1850 of
No. 20 s water twist - -	Common	7 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.	About 3 per cent.
„ 30 s „ mule twist - -	Best -	8 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.	„ 10 „
„ 30 s „ mule twist - -	Common	7 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.	„ 18 „
„ 40 s „ mule twist - -	Best -	8 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.	„ 20 „
„ 40 s „ mule twist - -	Common	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	„ 16 „
30 in. T cloths - -	Best -	9 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.	„ 18 „
36 in. 60 reed cloths, 50 yards -	4 lbs. -	2s. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	
	9 lbs. 10 oz. to 9 lbs. 12 oz.	9s. 2d.	
36 in. 72 reeds, 25 yards - -	5 lbs. 12 oz. to 5 lbs. 14 oz.	6s.	

I now propose to carry a similar calculation to the year 1863, but placing, for the sake of comparison, the price of Surat cotton, according to the averages given in the circulars of Messrs. Ellison and Haywood, which has now taken the place of the great bulk of the American formerly consumed, against the price of ordinary Orleans, also quoted:

Average price of Dhol fair cotton in 1863, 1s. 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb., being an advance upon the price of ordinary Orleans since 1855, of nearly 300 per cent.

Average price of No. 20s water twist in 1863, 2s. 0 $\frac{3}{4}$ d., being an advance upon the price of the best water-twist since 1855, of 64. per cent.

Average price of No. 30 s mule twist in 1863, 2s. 1 $\frac{5}{8}$ d., being an advance upon the price of the 38 s mule twist since 1855, of 190 per cent.

Average price of No. 40 s mule twist in 1863, 2s. 3 $\frac{7}{8}$ d., being an advance upon the price of the best 48 s mule twist, since 1855, of 180 per cent.

The two last returns show in as striking manner as the first return quoted from Mr. Horner's report, that the price of yarn follows at a considerable distance a rise in the price of cotton, and it must be evident to every observer, that the operations of manufacturers at the present time are of the most precarious nature. They who speculate upon the prolongation or the cessation of the American War run risks of very great magnitude, and it is not to be wondered at that so many large factories have not been worked for many months. Those manufacturers who have small factories have done more work *i.e.*, have run more time, in comparison than many of the large establishments; they can so readily set to work to complete an order, so little capital is required to purchase the cotton, that the risk they run in accepting an order at a certain price is not great, while the larger manufacturer runs a risk in accepting a large order, during the completion of which the price of cotton might vary to such an extent that the order would entail a serious

loss. Mr. Potter, M.P., put this case very forcibly in an address he delivered at Carlisle some time since, from which he has permitted me to make the following extract :

“Many of his neighbours had begun using Indian cotton, but he thought they would rather discontinue working, and he did not anticipate that many of the manufacturers would start with it because it was exceedingly costly and difficult to work, and very risky. He had applied to a spinner in his own neighbourhood, who employs 700 or 800 hands, and who had been working Indian cotton, having started some few months ago, for information as to what it would cost him to start his mill. His mill was one of the first class, with new machinery ; yet it would take about 15,000*l.* to buy cotton and start his mill and run at the smallest possible cost ; and if there was any close of the American war, and a check in the cotton market, he had no doubt that that 15,000*l.* would be reduced in value to 5,000 or 6,000*l.* He thought that with such a prospect of that kind before the manufacturers they should hardly be called upon to take a risk of that kind ; he knew three or four mills in a certain district which were not working, and the amount it would take to put them into work would be 150,000*l.* The owners of those mills had been a good deal pressed and remarked upon, but they could hardly expect individuals to run the risk of losing 100,000*l.* in the course of a month.”

The relative value of “Surat” cotton is still as much a disputed question as ever. Experience has undoubtedly proved to many manufacturers that good yarn and good cloth can be made from it ; yet there are others, and they form the majority, who use it as a substitute only, and use it with repugnance, not on account of the price only, but because they cannot work it as satisfactorily as they can American cotton. There is first of all, as I have before explained at p 68. of this report, the “opening” of the cotton, to rid it of the dirt and sand with which it is so much impregnated, and then through every process there is some difficulty to be overcome, or some extra manipulation required, which causes the manufacture of Surat cotton to be constantly a source of anxiety to the manufacturers as it is to the hands ; but where the question has been taken up with a determination to make the best of it, many of the difficulties have been not only overcome, but the manufacture made profitable as well to the masters as to the hands. There is a large factory in the neighbourhood of Blackburn, of which the firm was one of the first to recognize the necessity of accepting Surat cotton as the substitute for American, and from the attention paid to the peculiarities of the cotton and the care taken in adapting machinery to the “short-staple,” the manufacture has been very successful, and in fact the mill has been with little exception working full time during the year 1863. The quality of cotton used

has been tolerably uniform, what might be called “middling Surat;” during the last few months of 1863, however, a proportion of Egyptian has been used. I annex, as an illustration of what improvement and adaptation of machinery may do, the following statement of the earnings of the operatives in this factory during the last week of December 1863, compared with their earnings in 1861 and 1862.

	1861.		1862.		1863.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Overlooker of carders	35	0	42	0	42	0
Carder	21	0	21	0	21	0
Grinder	17	6	16	0	16	0
Drawer	12	0	12	0	12	0
Slubber*	11	0	17	9	17	0
Rover*	10	10	13	10	15	6
Creeler	10	0	10	0	10	0
Self-acting minder (spinner)*	18	0	21	0	29	0
Piecer	12	0	12	0	12	0
Minder*	6	8	9	4	12	0
Warper*	10	6	12	2	14	6
Sizer*	18	11	31	5	35	0
Loomer*	7	6	13	5	35	0
Drawer*	8	4	18	0	16	3
Knitter*	9	3	14	4	13	3
Weaver* (2 looms)†	7	9	11	0	13	2
Tackler or overlooker*	20	3	31	7	35	0
Cloth looker	24	0	24	0	24	0

The operatives marked thus * are paid by the piece, the others are paid weekly wages.

† Many weavers have now three looms.

It is not at every mill, however that “Surat” has been so well managed. The above may be taken as the result of the most successful treatment of Indian cotton; but the following letter from a gentleman in the Rochdale district will serve to show that as far as the working of the cotton goes, it can be made a fair substitute for American:

“Up to 1861 our consumption ran extensively upon American cotton, but as this staple began to rise in value and gradually out of our reach, we were glad to find a substitute in the better classes of Indian cotton, which we used at first sparingly, and afterwards, as necessity compelled, in increasing proportions; very soon we found comparatively little trouble in its adoption, we gradually grew more hardened to its use, and in course of time we found ourselves in the position of having used all grades of

Indian cotton from Dhawar to the qualities of Scinde and Bengal. Our opinion at present is that if we could have a good supply of the better classes of Indian cotton we should not feel anxious about a return to America."

It should be remarked that the wages earned in this mill are about the average of others in which Surat is used. They are given at Mill 4, p 53., and although the Indian cotton may have been worked to profit by the manufacturer, it will be seen that the operatives are sufferers compared with 1861, and if the use of Surat be confirmed, the operatives will want to earn the wages of 1861, which would seriously affect the profits of the manufacturer, unless he obtain compensation either in the price of the raw cotton or of his products.

The scarcity of cotton naturally gave rise to an inquiry for a substitute, and led to many suggestions, few of which however have stood the test of experience. I have had samples of material shewn to me which outwardly had all the appearance of a fair substitute for cotton, and the price of which would have brought them into the market, but it has not been possible to work them into a satisfactory yarn or cloth. The use which is now made of these substitutes is to mix them with cotton; manufacturers turned their attention to waste flax as affording some hope of their being able to produce a useful material, and I have been informed that this fibre when bleached and "devilled," makes a very good material for mixing with cotton; it is used in some mills, and costs about 1s. per lb. after being bleached. I have seen various kinds of old material being broken up in mixture with cotton waste, as old silk dresses, old cotton gowns, and in fact any fabric which contains a woolly fibre likely to mix with cotton. But the material principally used to supply the place of the cotton is the "waste" from the various processes of the manufacture of cotton itself. From the first process of manufacture to the last there is a loss of cotton; the very short fibres thrown up in the process of "blowing or scutching," are generally carried off by means of iron pipes, and flow, with the light particles of dirt and dust which have accumulated with the raw cotton beyond the walls of the factory; the fibres which are thrown off in the process of carding are collected in the like manner and carried out of the factory, where they either lie in heaps or float down the streams. The next waste was collected from the cards of the carding engine; then the "laps" or loose tape-like ends from the throwing and drawing frames, and lastly the yarn itself from the spinning and doubling frames and the looms, these being the pieces which are lost in tying the ends of broken threads, &c. The first kind of waste, the droppings of the shortest fibres, which were formerly valueless, or rather which had to

be carted away or otherwise disposed of and were thus frequently a cause of expense, is now bought up at 8*d.* to 1*s.* per 20 lbs. weight, and the "fly," that is the fibres of cotton adhering to the carding engines and spinning mules, which formerly produced from a half-penny to a penny per lb., is now bought at prices varying according to the quality of from 4*d.* to 8*d.* The waste is again cleaned by the waste dealers, by its being passed through a machine called the "devil," and is an important article of consumption; supplying the place of many thousands of pounds of raw cotton. The cleaning being done by the aid of steam power, there has been a considerable addition in several parts of my district to the number of factories to be inspected, but in general young hands are not employed in them, the principal operatives being adult men. Large quantities of cotton waste from the spinning mules and looms are used by engineers and machine makers for cleaning machinery, and used to be sold at various rates according to quality, for instance, two kinds would sell for 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ *d.* per lb., while the best white ones would sell for 3*d.* per lb.; the ordinary price of the lower quality is now 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ *d.* and of the white 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ *d.*, while the best of the whites will fetch from 10*d.* to 1*s.* per lb. But this material is too valuable to be sold for such a purpose now; when it is re-converted into cotton it is used by the manufacturer as cotton, and enables him by mixing it with raw cotton to reduce the price of the raw material. It is calculated that Surat cotton loses 25 per cent. of waste, *i.e.*, the 100lbs. weight of cotton, bought as cotton, produces only 75lbs. of a usable material, from the dirt, short fibre, and loss in the various processes of manufacture; but the price now given for waste, and its re-introduction in the factory in the shape of cotton waste, go some way to compensate for the difference in the loss by waste, between Surat cotton and American cotton, about 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

The waste in working Surat cotton being 25 per cent., the cost of the cotton to the spinner is enhanced one fourth before he has manufactured it. The loss by waste used not to be of much moment when American cotton was 5*d.* or 6*d.* per lb., for it did not exceed $\frac{3}{4}$ *d.* per lb., but it is now of great importance when upon every lb. of cotton which costs 2*s.* there is a loss by waste equal to 6*d.*

When the waste was sold as waste and used by the purchaser, the Trade had no more benefit from it; now however, the waste is again worked up, and is the means of giving employment to many hands. I was recently shewn at a factory near Manchester towels or rubbers made for engineers about three quarters of a yard square, with very open meshes, but at a price, weight for weight, much less than they would have to pay for the waste cotton itself.

It was once the common practice to decry the preparation of waste and woollen rags for re-manufacture, but the prejudice has entirely subsided as regards the "shoddy" trade, which has become an important branch of the woollen trade of Yorkshire, and doubtless the "cotton waste" trade will be recognized in the same manner as supplying an admitted want. Thirty years since, woollen rags, *i.e.*, pieces of cloth, old clothes, &c. of nothing but wool, would average about 4*l.* 4*s.* per ton in price: within the last few years they have become worth 44*l.* per ton, and the demand for them has so increased that means have been found for utilizing the rags of fabrics of cotton and wool mixed by destroying the cotton and leaving the wool intact, and now thousands of operatives are engaged in the manufacture of shoddy, from which the consumer has greatly benefited in being able to purchase cloth of a fair and average quality at a very moderate price.

The same course will, if cotton maintain a high price during the next year or two, be followed in the cotton waste trade, and the manufacturers, operatives, and the public will equally enjoy the advantages of this new branch of industry.

NEW MILLS AND SUPPLY OF HANDS.

In my last report I noticed the erection of new mills in some parts of my district, stating that in Oldham above 20 mills had been opened since 1860, containing 400,000 spindles, and that nine more were in course of erection, intended for upwards of 250,000 spindles, and that 13 were in the course of erection in the neighbourhood of Ashton-under-Lyne, intended to contain 330,000. Since the date of that report, four of the mills in the course of construction at Oldham have been opened, and two of those at Ashton-under-Lyne, but they are only partially at work.

In other districts I am informed that mills are in the course of erection, and it has been estimated that there will be altogether, ready to be worked when the cotton trade revives, upwards of 100 new mills. The opinion of the trade is, that they will be required, and will be worked. The following extract is taken from a letter written in April last by a manufacturer of great intelligence and sound views. He says:—

"I am a spinner in the very centre of the seat of the cotton manufacture, and consequently am better prepared to judge on this question than men who are not so situated; that from an elevated point of this town I can command a view of as many new mills as will require about 3,000 hands when the trade revives. These mills have not worked yet, and the hands have to be found. I know many towns are in a similar position, that as soon as the vibration of markets, incident to the settlement

of American difficulties are past, we shall have a demand for our products, which will set to work all the mills both old and new."

The writer thinks that the hands for the new mills "are yet to be found." He does not, however, indicate in what quarter they are to be sought. But hands will have to be sought for many of the old mills, for the present available cotton population will not be sufficient. Those who have emigrated to the United States and to the colonies are lost to the cotton market, and the population is at once reduced by that number. Of the number of cotton hands who have left their own districts, and of those who have found employment within our neighbourhood, many doubtless will return to their own occupation when the trade revives; but after having been accustomed to other work for three or four years they will probably have lost, for a time at least, some of their cunning, and there is reason to think that the number of hands suitable for cotton mills will be further diminished from the smaller number of children now employed in cotton mills, which will cause a scarcity hereafter, or even at the present time if trade were brisk, of trained hands for the cotton trade. There is one means of supplying to some extent the deficiency of labour, viz., by improvements in machinery. Improvements of this kind are always progressing, and considerable alterations are now being made in the economy of mills, to substitute machinery for labour, and I have noticed recently some remarkable instances of progress in this direction.

Having remarked when I was in the mill of messrs. Wm. Jones and sons, Store St., Manchester, that they had recently erected new carding engines, I requested them to favour me with a short statement of the advantages which they had experienced from their alterations, and they have kindly given me the following as the result of their improvements:—

"We formerly had 75 carding engines now we have 12 doing the same quantity of work, which is fully equal if not superior to what we made before; we are doing with fewer hands by 14 at a saving in wages of 10*l.* per week. Our estimated saving in waste is about 10 per cent. in the quantity of cotton consumed."

A very similar opinion was given to me by the Hanover Mill Co. at Manchester when I inspected their well managed establishment during the last autumn; they consider that a considerable saving has been effected both in waste and production through the superiority of the new carding engines, although the advantages are not so great in their mill as in mills where finer yarns are spun. In another fine spinning mill in Manchester I was informed that through increased speed and the adoption of some self-acting processes a reduction had been made in number of a fourth in

one department and of above half in another, and that the introduction of the combing machine in place of the second carding had considerably reduced the number of hands formerly employed in the carding room.

The reduction of hands against increased production is in fact constantly taking place ; in woollen mills the reduction commenced some time since, and is continuing ; a few days since the master of a school in the neighbourhood of Rochdale said to me that “the great falling off in the girls school is “not only caused by the distress, but by the changes of “machinery in the woollen mills, of which a reduction of 70 “short-timers had taken place.”

The following is an account of the work now carried on by Messrs. Gilmour, cotton spinners, of Bradford Road, Manchester, since the changes they had made by replacing their old machinery by new and improved machinery, which Mr. Thomas Williams, the manager of the mill has kindly communicated. The cotton used in this mill is for 70 s to 80 s Egyptian and for 40 s to 54 s American.

“In our blowing room department we consider our expense with new machinery is fully one third less in wages and hands : in the card room, so far as the cards are concerned, we have made no alteration in machinery : in the jack frame and drawing frame room, about one-third less in expense, and likewise one-third less in hands ; in the spinning room about one-third less in expenses. But this is not all ; when our yarn goes to the manufacturers it is so much better by the application of our new machinery that they will produce a greater quantity of cloth and cheaper than from the yarn produced by old machinery.”

The preceding are instances of the replacing of old machinery by new ; but as I have mentioned how many new mills are being erected, I will show how new arrangements can be made conducive to economy of labour and of expense. Having received notice of the erection of a large spinning mill in Manchester, in which I was informed that great pains had been taken to erect a building not only most advantageous for spinning, but excellently arranged for ventilation and for the comfort of the hands employed in it, I requested to be furnished with a description of the building and its arrangements, as an illustration of what was done in a modern mill, and Mr. Coles was kind enough to procure for me the following account from Mr. Edward Williams, the occupier of the mill in question :—

“As regards the improvement made in machinery, I may say in the first place that a great advance has been made in the construction of mills adapted to receive improved machinery. I have erected such a mill, and it is the opinion of those competent to judge, that my mill is not surpassed for the means it affords for the economy of labour and the preservation of the health of those labouring within its walls. It is 45 yards by 43 ; its

elevation is 78 feet, comprising six stories, independent of a large store and packing room at the base, consisting of 860 square yards of flooring. There are two water-closets to each room, and the roof of the mill is drained down the closet pipes, thus keeping them constantly flushed when there is a fall of rain; and they are flushed weekly, independent of the rain water; and there is a communication between the cesspool and the chimney, so that foulness is prevented, there being also two ventilators to each closet, the women and men having their respective closets to go to. The mill is beautifully lighted, better lighted than the old mills are that are only 14 yards wide. I had also a shed built up to the bottom room, in fact, they are one; there are about 2,600 square yards in shed and room. In the shed I wind, warp, reel, gas, and prepare the yarn for the respective markets it is intended for; and in the bottom room I double all my yarn, and upon that single floor I shall put 29,000 doubling spindles. I effect a saving of labour in the room and shed of at least 10 per cent., not so much from any improvement in the principle of doubling yarn, but from a concentration of machinery under a single management; and I am enabled to drive the said number of spindles by one single shaft, a saving in shafting, compared with what other firms have to use to work the same number of spindles, of 60 per cent., in some cases 80 per cent. There is a large saving in oil, and shafting, and in grease, and less risk to both life and limb. The same economy in labour is effected in card room and spinning room; also a great saving in oil, shafting, &c., owing to superior mill arrangements.

“A great saving in labour has been effected also in carding room, by an improved carding engine, by the use of which one carding engine is now doing the work of 14 cards, and doing it better. This is a great revolution in preparing cotton. A great improvement has been made in the hand spinning mules; when they are under the control of the spinner they are semi-self-acting, thus requiring less manual labour to work them; and the improved method of preparing rovings for the mules will enable me to work my mules with a less number of persons; so that with superior mill arrangements and improved machinery, at the lowest estimate I have effected a saving in labour of 10 per cent., a great saving in power, coal, oil, tallow, shafting, and strapping, cheerful rooms for all the hands, with a good atmosphere to breathe in. The cotton I am using is Egyptian; my numbers will probably average 130 s for some time until Sea Island cotton can be had at a reasonable price, then 160 s might be my average.”

Having shown what the earnings are of those who are working upon Surat cotton, it must be evident that they are submitted to as a necessity, and that when the tide turns and trade is active, the operatives will demand an increase, or, if better cotton comes in, they will refuse to work inferior cotton as they are doing now.

The “manufacturer” from whose letter I have already made an extract, thus describes the question of wages:—

“Most of the mills are now using lower classes of cotton than formerly for their work. The rates of wages are not quite up to the highest rates of the most prosperous years, but still are as high as were paid about four years ago, and the main loss to the hands is in the smallness of the quantity they can get through. Any one familiar with these districts, knows that as soon as there is a favourable turn in the trade, the workers will turn out against spinning Surat of ordinary quality into 40 s, they will not spin the low cotton so far by 10 hanks as they are doing now. Every master will have to improve his mixings, and so at the present rate of wages the workers will at once arrive at a fair average wage. There can be no doubt that this will be the course events will take; manufacturers know it, and are prepared to act accordingly.”

But as I have said, it is almost assumed by the writer that the necessary number of hands will be forthcoming when wanted; should they not be found readily, both for the old mills and the new, at a moderate calculation 100,000 hands, there must be a demand for a rise in the rate of wages; and it is to be hoped, that the warm sympathy which has been so deeply felt by the whole country for the distressed districts, the mutual respect and good feeling which have existed between the employer and employed, during the last two unexampled years in the history of the cotton trade, and the experience which the operatives have had, that the interest of themselves and their masters are identical, will tend to divest the question of wages of all acrimony and angry feeling, so that it may be settled upon terms, which each party may consider as just and fair to the other, as to himself.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your very obedient humble servant,

ALEX^R REDGRAVE.

To the Right Hon.

Sir George Grey, Bart., M.P., G.C.B.,

&c. &c &c.

APPENDIX No. 1.

RETURN of PROSECUTIONS for OFFENCES against the FACTORIES REGULATION ACTS in the DISTRICT of ALEXANDER REDGRAVE, Esq., during the Six Months ended the 30th October 1863.

Date.	Names and Addresses of Persons summoned.	Names of the Magistrates who heard the Case, & Place of Hearing.	Nature of the Offence.	Amount of Penalty.	Amount of Costs.	REMARKS.
1863. Oct. 20	Trades Lane Calendering Company, Dundee.	William Thoms and Alexander Wighton, Esqs.; Dundee.	<i>In the Sub-Inspectorship of Mr. Walker.</i> 1st. Employing a young person without registering his name. 2d. Employing the same young person without obtaining surgical certificate of his age. 3d. Employing fifteen young persons after 6 p.m. - 4th. Employing the same young persons during the night.	£ s. d. 3 3 0 2 0 0 15 0 0 30 0 0	£ s. d. 5 5 0	These convictions were quashed upon appeal to the County Sessions; from this decision an appeal has been made to the Court of Session in Edinburgh, but the case has not yet been heard.
May 8	Peter Jackson, Lees Street, Manchester.	C. J. S. Walker and John Motley, Esqs.; Police Court, Manchester.	<i>Informations laid by Mr. Coles.</i> Employing ten women and young persons after 2 o'clock of a Saturday.	10 0 0	5 5 0	Five per cent. deducted from the penalties for court dues.
Sept. 14	Fish and Green, Charles Street, Bury, Lancashire.	Wm. Openshaw, J. Hutchinson, and O. Walker, Esqs.; Court House, Bury.	Employing a child without a certificate of school attendance.	2 0 0	0 11 0	
"	Jabez Morris, Overlooker and Parent, Bury.	" "	Neglecting to send his child to school, as required by the Factory Acts.	0 5 0	0 10 0	
Oct. 30	John Dickinson and Co., Elm Street, Manchester.	C. E. Ellison, Esq., Stipendiary Magistrate; Police Court, Manchester.	Employing two young persons without having registered their names and the date of the first day of their employment.	-	-	Dismissed, subject to a case to be brought before the Court of Common Pleas.
"	" "	" "	For employing the same two young persons without surgical certificates.	-	-	

<i>Informations laid by Mr. Rickards.</i>						
Aug. 4	Wm. Thompson, Rawdon.	F. Darwin and F. Wormald, Esqs.; Town Hall, Leeds.	Employing two children without school certificate for previous week.	2	0	0
"	Simeon Lupton, Rawdon.	"	Neglecting to send his boy to school	-	-	0 11 6
"	David Hogg, Rawdon	"	Neglecting to send his boy to school	-	-	0 11 6
Sept. 10	Messrs. Kirkby, Smelt-house, near Pateley.	J. Yack and H. Hutchinson, Esqs.; Pateley Bridge.	Working nine females during the period allowed for dinner.	2	0	0
" 17	Wm. Russam, Leeds	C. Chadwick and J. Ellershaw, Esqs.; Town Hall, Leeds.	Employing one child before noon and after one o'clock of the same day.	1	0	0
Oct. 26	Adam Wade, Morley	T. H. Cook and J. Hague, Esqs.; Dewsbury.	Employing one young person without being registered.	-	-	0 10 6
"	John Benn, Morley	"	Employing two young persons without surgical certificates.	-	-	1 4 0
"	Wm. Dixon and Sons, Morley.	"	Employing three children without school certificates for previous week.	3	0	0
June 8	Joseph Elsey, of Nottingham.	John Lawson Thackeray and Joseph Brathwaite, Esqs.	<i>Informations laid by Mr. Whymper.</i> Employing a young person in lace factory after the hour of 2 p.m. on Saturday.	1	0	0
"	"	"	Employing three young persons in lace factory after the hour of 2 p.m. on Saturday.	}	-	0 11 6
"	"	"	Employing two young persons in lace factory after the hour of 2 p.m. on Saturday.			
"	"	"	"	}	-	0 11 6
"	"	"	"			
"	William Spencer, Sim's Factory, Nottingham.	"	Employing a child in lace factory after the hour of 2 p.m. on Saturday.	1	0	0
"	"	"	Employing four children in lace factory after the hour of 2 p.m. on Saturday.	}	-	0 15 0
"	"	"	"			
"	"	"	"			
"	"	"	"			

LIST OF PROSECUTIONS—continued.

Date.	Names and Addresses of Persons summoned.	Names of the Magistrates who heard the Case, & Place of Hearing.	Nature of the Offence.	Amount of Penalty.	Amount of Costs.	REMARKS.
1863. June 18	Thomas Walker and Sons, Longwood.	John Lawson Thackeray, Joseph Braithwaite, and W. Mellor, Esqs.	Employing two children without schoolmaster's certificate.	£ s. d. 3 0 0	£ s. d. 1 2 0	
"	Fisher and Walker, Longwood.	"	Employing a young person without registering the name.	1 0 0	0 6 0	
"	"	"	Employing a young person without having obtained surgeon's certificate.	1 0 0	0 6 0	
"	"	"	Employing a young person without registering the name.	-	0 6 0	
"	Barnicott and Kenyon, Shepley.	"	Employing ten females during meal time	10 0 0	2 15 0	
"	"	"	Employing thirty females during meal time	-	6 15 0	Withdrawn on payment of costs.
Aug. 15	D. Schofield, Hollings Mill.	John Lawson Thackeray, Joseph Braithwaite, and J. T. Armitage, Esqs.	Obstructing the Sub-Inspector in execution of his duty.	3 0 0	0 6 0	
"	Chas. Hirst, Rashcliffe Mill.	"	Employing a young person without a surgeon's certificate.	1 0 0	0 6 0	
"	"	"	Employing a young person without registering the name.	2 0 0	0 6 0	
"	Wilkinson and Calverley, Hollings Mill.	"	Employing a young person without a surgeon's certificate.	1 0 0	0 18 6	
"	"	"	Employing a young person without registering the name.	2 0 0	0 6 0	
"	"	"	Employing a young person without a surgeon's certificate.	1 0 0	0 6 0	
"	Joseph Mellor and Sons, Thongs Bridge, Huddersfield.	Joshua Moorhouse and John Harpin, Esqs.	For employing a young person without entering his name on register.	2 0 0	0 6 0	
"	"	"	For working a young person without obtaining medical certificate.	1 0 0	0 19 0	

"	James Holmes, Holmfirth.	"	For working a child without obtaining medical certificate.	1	0	0	0	19	0	
"	"	"	For working a child without first entering his name on register.	2	0	0	0	5	0	
July 9	Halkyard and Scholes, Oldham.	J. Riley, Esq. (Mayor) and N. Worthington, Esq.	<i>Informations laid by Mr. R. E. S. Oram.</i> Employing two females after 6 o'clock in the evening.	1	0	0	0	16	6	One case withdrawn on payment of costs.
Oct. 8	James Hindle, Heald Knitter, Oldham.	J. Riley, Esq. (Mayor), E. A. Wright, and N. Worthington, Esqs.	Not keeping registers of young persons or children	2	0	0	1	6	6	Mr. Hindle considered that his works were not under the Act.
"	"	"	Employing a child without school certificates	-	-	-	0	4	6	Withdrawn.
May 6	David Kearton and Co., Speculation Mill, Livesey, Blackburn.	Joseph Harrison, Esq., and John Thwaites, Esq.; Petty Sessions, Blackburn.	<i>Informations laid by Mr. J. Henderson.</i> Employing two children forenoon and afternoon of the same day.	1	0	0	1	0	6	One case withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	"	"	Employing the same children without having obtained school certificates.	1	0	0	1	0	6	One case withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	"	"	Employing four young persons and children without having their names registered.	2	0	0	1	16	6	Three cases withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	"	"	Employing three children and young persons without having obtained surgical certificates.	2	0	0	1	5	6	Two cases withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	Thos. Hodgkinson, operative.	"	Neglecting to send his child to school	0	5	0	0	12	6	
May 21	Eccles Shorrocks, Bros., Co., Bowling Green Mill, Over Darwen.	Richard Eccles, Esq., and the Rev. E. C. Montriou; Petty Sessions, Over Darwen.	Employing eight females before six of the clock in the morning.	8	0	0	4	13	0	
July 1	Ashton, Fairhurst, and Co., Bank Field Shed, Blackburn.	Thomas Lund, Esq., Christopher Parkinson, Esq.; Borough Court, Blackburn.	Employing two children forenoon and afternoon of same day.	1	0	0	0	16	0	One case withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	"	"	Employing the same children without having obtained school certificates.	1	0	0	0	16	0	One case withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	James Hesketh, labourer.	"	Neglecting to send his child to school	-	-	-	0	3	0	On account of the poverty of the defendant, case withdrawn on payment of costs.

LIST OF PROSECUTIONS—continued.

Date.	Names and Addresses of Persons summoned.	Names of the Magistrates who heard the Case, & Place of Hearing.	Nature of the Offence.	Amount of Penalty.	Amount of Costs.	REMARKS.
1863. July 3	Henry Ward, Swallow S. Mills, Blackburn.	Thomas Lund, Esq., Christopher Parkinson, Esq.; Borough Court, Blackburn.	Employing four females after six of the clock in the evening.	£ s. d. 4 0 0	£ s. d. 2 11 0	
Sept. 22	Elijah Knowles and Co., Saint Paul's Mills, Blackburn.	Christopher Parkinson, Esq.; Borough Court, Blackburn.	Employing twenty-eight females after six of the clock in the evening.	20 0 0	15 3 0	Eight cases withdrawn on payment of costs.
Sept 28.	Joseph Harrison and Co., Highfield, Blackburn.	William Pilkington, Esq., and James Johnstone, Esq.; Borough Court, Blackburn.	Employing twenty-three females and young persons after six of the clock in the evening.	10 0 0	10 10 6	Thirteen cases withdrawn on payment of costs.
Oct. 8	David Ainsworth, Radford Mill, Over Darwen.	Rev. Philip Graham and Richard Eccles, Esq.; Petty Sessions, Over Darwen.	Employing sixteen females and young persons during the time set apart for meals.	8 0 0	9 1 0	Eight cases withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	Henry Duckworth, Grange Mill, Accrington.	James Worsley, Esq., and James Grimshaw, Esq.; Petty Sessions, Accrington.	Employing three young person without having their names registered.	2 0 0	1 16 6	Two cases withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	"	"	Employing four young persons without having obtained surgical certificates.	2 0 0	2 6 6	Three cases withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	William Peel, overlooker, Accrington.	"	Allowing his child to work forenoon and afternoon of same day.	0 5 0	0 13 6	
Oct. 31	John Warburton, jun., Charles Lane, Haslingden.	Rev. L. H. Mordaque and George Edward Hardman, Esq.; Petty Sessions, Haslingden.	Employing thirteen females, young persons, and children after six of the clock in the evening.	10 0 0	9 11 0	Three cases withdrawn on payment of costs.

<i>Informations laid by Mr. Measor.</i>					
May 11	Briggs, Ambler, and Briggs, Holme Top Mill, Bradford.	Major Wood and William Peel Esqs.; Court House, Bradford.	Employing three young persons without having their names registered.	8 0 0	2 9 6
"	"	"	Employing two young persons without surgical certificates.	6 0 0	1 13 0
"	William Busfield and Sons, Legrams Mill, Horton.	"	Employing two young persons and one child without having their names registered.	6 0 0	2 2 0
"	"	"	Employing two young persons and one child without surgical certificates.	6 0 0	2 2 0
May 14	Henry Roberts and Son, Quarry Mills, Gomersal.	"	Not keeping a register of children	2 0 0	0 14 0
"	"	J. B. Greenwood and John Hague, Esqs.; Court House, Dewsbury.	Employing three young persons without registering their names after previous conviction.	10 0 0	2 8 6
"	"	"	Employing two young persons without surgical certificates after previous conviction.	5 0 0	0 17 0
Sept. 14	Michael Horan, labourer.	"	Altering the date of a baptismal certificate, for the purpose of procuring a false surgical certificate for his son, John Patrick Horan.	-	0 17 0
Sept. 17	Henry Walker and Sons, Sands Mill, Mirfield.	William Walker and George Anderton, Esqs., and Major Wood; Court House, Bradford.	Employing a child without having his name registered.	2 0 0	0 9 0
"	"	John Hague and Charles Wheatley, Esqs.; Court House, Dewsbury.	Employing the same without a surgical certificate	2 0 0	0 6 0
"	"	"	Employing the same without a schoolmaster's certificate.	1 0 0	0 6 0
"	"	"	Employing the same before noon and after one o'clock on the same day.	1 0 0	0 6 0

Sentenced to imprisonment for two calendar months in the House of Correction.

APPENDIX No. 2.

TABLE No. I.—*Accidents arising from Machinery.*

Nature of Injury	Adults.		Young Persons.		Children.		Total.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M&F.
Causing death - - -	12	2	3	3	1	2	16	7	23
Amputation of right hand or arm	4	1	5	2	—	—	9	3	12
Amputation of left hand or arm	6	—	2	1	1	—	9	1	10
Amputation of part of right hand	15	21	14	18	6	3	35	42	77
Amputation of part of left hand	15	6	12	19	5	5	32	30	62
Amputation of any part of leg } or foot - - - }	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Fracture of limbs and bones of } trunk - - - }	17	6	13	13	1	1	31	20	51
Fracture of hand or foot - -	19	22	30	22	5	7	44	51	95
Injuries to head and face - -	20	14	9	13	4	—	33	27	60
Lacerations, contusions, and } other injuries not enumerated } above - - - }	163	149	154	194	52	23	369	366	735
Total - - -	272	221	232	285	75	41	579	547	1126

TABLE No. II.—*Accidents not arising from Machinery.*

Nature of Injury.	Adults.		Young Persons.		Children.		Total.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M&F.
Causing death - - -	5	—	—	—	1	—	6	—	6
Fracture of limbs and bones of } trunk - - - }	4	2	9	4	1	—	14	6	20
Fracture of hand or foot - -	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3
Injuries to head and face - -	3	1	7	1	—	3	10	5	15
Lacerations, contusions, and } other injuries not enumerated } above - - - }	21	10	6	5	2	1	29	16	45
Total - - -	36	13	22	10	4	4	62	27	89

REPORT of ROBERT BAKER Esq., Inspector of Factories, for
the eight months ended the 31st of December 1863.

*Factory Inspectors' Office,
Whitehall, 1st January 1864.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to present to you my usual Report on the state of my district.

I have, during the period which it embraces, personally visited factories, bleachworks (open air and otherwise), printing and dyeing works, and schools, in the counties of Lancaster, Chester, Warwick, Leicester, and in Ireland.

On the general observance of the law I have nothing particular to communicate to you. With a few exceptions, there appears to be a desire amongst the manufacturers to keep its provisions.

There have been about the usual number of prosecutions, many of them of a minor character; some for overworking, even in these bad times for the cotton districts. To one of these prosecutions I must advert more particularly, namely, to that of the Messieurs Taylor & Co. of Leicester, (who are extensive manufacturers of thread for sewing and other purposes,) for not placing themselves under the Factory Acts. Many years ago this firm was brought before the justices for this offence, but the case was dismissed as not being within the provisions of the Act of Parliament, from which decision there was at that time no appeal. They were again brought before the magistrates in the early part of the present year for not keeping a register of young persons; and I directed Mr. Sub-Inspector Haydon, in the event of the prosecution failing as on the last occasion, to ask for a case for the decision of the Court of Queen's Bench, which he did; and after an argument by counsel on the 18th of November last, that court ordered the judgment and determination of the justices to be reversed, and the case to be remitted to them. This has been done. Messrs. Taylor & Co. having had a long exemption from the restrictions of the law, have, since this hearing, expressed their intention to conform to it in future.

I have also had to prosecute a schoolmaster for a false certificate of the attendance of certain short time children at school. The school was one within the factory, and the teacher was a young man who had some time ago suffered an accident within the factory. I found, however, that on one occasion, having been sent away on business, he had given the children credit for an attendance which they had never paid. He has been fined 5*l.* and costs for this offence, though he might have been imprisoned; and I have forbidden his teaching factory children any more.

There had been 401 accidents in my district up to the 31st of October, and an unusual number of them fatal. An analysis of these fatalities, however, does not show more than two of them to have been preventable by any means within my control; one, where a girl was killed by an upright shaft, in a mill which had not long passed into the occupation of its present proprietor, whose servant had removed the cover of the shaft for some repairs, and had neglected to replace it; the other, by an unfenced water wheel. In the former case, the occupier has been fined the maximum penalty of 20*l.*, with such an admonition from the bench as ought to deter other persons from a similar kind of neglect; in the latter, the occupier has been fined 5*l.* and costs. Of fifteen accidents, recently enquired into by Mr. Sub-Inspector Steen, four were traceable to the inefficient fencing of machinery, one to cleaning machinery whilst in motion, and the remaining twelve were attributable either to causes purely accidental, or to carelessness on the part of the workers; to nothing, in fact, which could apparently have been prevented by any precautionary measures; and this I should take to be the proportionate rate of the causes of accidents in factories generally.

I have to speak in the most favourable terms of the zeal and services of the gentlemen who compose the staff of my half of the Factory Department, and in the office. I thank you very much for the appointment of another Sub-Inspector for Ireland, an appointment which was essentially needed, for it was impossible for one Sub-Inspector over all Ireland, and he a gentleman not in very strong health, to discharge his duties effectually, whatever might have been his inclination.

But I have still more warmly to thank you for your kind consideration of our earnest request, for an increase in the salaries of the Sub-Inspectors. In this department of the Civil Service, for thirty years at the close of this year, during upwards of twenty-four of which I was a Sub-Inspector over one of the most important sub-divisions in the kingdom, if not the most important, I can well bear testimony to the necessity for this increase, not only as being due to the position of these gentlemen, and to the zealous performance of their duties, but to the fact of their salaries not having been previously on a scale of equality with other departments of the public service."

THE STATE OF TRADE.

The silk trade appears to be all over my district in a state of great depression. So far as I am able to speak of them the worsted and woollen trades are both in full activity, and prices are obtained for goods equivalent to the very high

price of the raw material. I have gone more into detail with respect to the cotton and flax trades, as they are now and are likely to be for some time the subjects of the deepest interest, because every fact with respect to them is of consequence, and, by whomsoever gathered, may possibly be made useful by some one to whom they have not been previously accessible, and may supply a link which was wanting in the chain of his own information.

THE COTTON TRADE.

The following table, which is a continuation of a similar one in my last report, is intended to shew the absolute employment of the cotton workers from June to November inclusive, week by week. It is based on the assumption, that what employment there was during these six months was thrown over all the spindles which existed in 1860; and it is tested by the consumption of cotton in lbs. weight, according to the weight of the bales consumed, and the countries from whence they were derived; in which respect only it differs from the previous table, which was based upon an average weight of the bales consumed.

(For Table, see pages 4 and 5.)

For example, the Home Consumption of American cotton in the week ending with the 5th of June was 1220 bales, and the average weight of American cotton being 448 lbs. to the bale, the gross quantity consumed in that week was

546,560 lbs.

Of Brazilian and other cottons, exclusive of American, Egyptian, West Indian and East Indian,

	2140 bales at 180 lbs. per bale	385,200 lbs.
West Indian	860 „ 200 „	172,000 lbs.
Egyptian	2,660 „ 450 „	1,197,000 lbs.
East Indian	15,060 „ 380 „	5,722,800 lbs.

Total per week 8,023,560 lbs.

And as in 1860 the consumption of cotton at the rate of $9\frac{1}{2}$ oz. per spindle per week, and at an average weight of 410 lbs. per bale, was 21,032,467 lbs., in the same ratio the employment for these months, when thrown over all the spindles, amounts to the time which the table gives. Thus it appears that in no week since the 5th of June last was there more than two days seven hours and a few minutes employment for all the workers. This employment increased a little nearly every week, with a few exceptions and now and then a fluctuation, by a movement corresponding somewhat to the state of pauperism in the district, as exhibited by Mr. Farnall.

TABLE of the EXPORT, IMPORT, and HOME CONSUMPTION of Cotton for the weeks the weekly and average monthly Consumption in pounds weight, and the con-

Week ending	American.			Average of the Month per Week.			Brazil.			Average of the Month per Week.		
	Export.	Import.	Home Con- sumption.	Export.	Import.	Home Con- sumption.	Export.	Import.	Home Con- sumption.	Export.	Import.	Home Con- sumption.
1863. June 5 -	283	6790	1220				422	14396	2600			
„ 12 -	199	3183	1250				495	7808	2980			
„ 19 -	269	6140	1250				4392	3593	3020			
„ 26 -	315	1937	1260	241	5337	1240	2280	4196	3010	1897	7498	2902
July 3 -	815	2749	1310				1254	4463	3020			
„ 10 -	1034	507	1380				2729	3569	2990			
„ 17 -	341	616	1450				901	72	2370			
„ 24 -	957	1195	1520				1046	3830	2970			
„ 31 -	330	4083	1590	701	1950	1450	364	2055	3050	1256	2807	2980
Aug. 7 -	235	7483	1580				696	5907	3020			
„ 14 -	204	6930	1640				655	2101	3070			
„ 21 -	340	4303	1730				1053	6502	3100			
„ 28 -	1556	2505	1850	583	4244	1700	513	2491	3220	729	4250	3102
Sept. 4 -	1185	2272	1840				1229	1454	3240			
„ 11 -	717	3262	1960				2198	5126	3290			
„ 18 -	767	5352	2020				495	1003	3300			
„ 25 -	708	4948	2050	819	3958	1967	2390	916	3280	1578	2124	3277
Oct. 2 -	592	4333	2080				1070	1486	3260			
„ 9 -	181	3592	2100				2325	270	3270			
„ 16 -	339	7878	2180				1526	1967	3220			
„ 23 -	439	387	2260				4031	3315	3150			
„ 30 -	1676	1310	2290	645	3500	2182	1452	652	3110	2080	1538	3202
Nov. 6 -	1666	4588	2300				2070	2683	3060			
„ 13 -	1186	6355	2300				305	3032	3020			
„ 20 -	394	4777	2290				761	5139	2970			
„ 27 -	389	1835	2340	908	4513	2307	1062	1180	2920	1049	3008	2992

beginning with the 5th June and ending with the 27th November 1863, shewing
 sequent employment of all the people in days, hours, and minutes per week.

Egyptian.			Average of the Month per Week.			East Indian.			Average of the Month per Week.			Gross Quantity of lbs. per Week consumed.	Weekly Employment of Workpeople in Days, Hours, and Minutes.
Export.	Import.	Home Consumption.	Export.	Import.	Home Consumption.	Export.	Import.	Home Consumption.	Export.	Import.	Home Consumption.		
162	3245	2660				7905	56338	15060				8,023,560	2 1 48
079	7379	2670				4965	23265	15930				9,219,040	2 5 12
754	4051	2720				11842	6727	15220				8,128,400	2 2 6
796	4849	2680	697	4881	2682	6065	21890	15150	7491	27055	15115	8,085,880	2 2 0
103	2302	2780				7337	12917	14850				8,041,280	2 1 54
407	3930	2800				7835	3819	15140				8,186,240	2 2 18
334	1225	2780				7081	2627	15000				8,133,600	2 2 12
319	1004	2870				6870	116	15140				8,277,460	2 2 30
192	1087	3000	271	1909	2846	4003	26400	15230	6631	9175	15072	8,415,920	2 3 0
806	1763	3000				3330	60108	15160				8,379,140	2 2 48
220	796	3100				5901	20632	15390				8,547,320	2 3 18
82	600	3250				2948	26350	15720				8,786,340	2 4 0
426	4250	3460	383	2143	3202	7425	19592	16220	4901	16670	15622	9,146,600	2 5 0
320	2043	3450				10776	24971	16130				8,750,020	2 3 54
112	1518	3640				10753	27817	16730				9,373,880	2 5 42
428	4470	3750				8730	6854	17010				9,668,660	2 6 30
882	2035	3780	433	2531	3652	7377	63301	17090	9409	19808	16740	9,722,400	2 6 42
179	1966	3750				6159	17668	17100				9,722,550	2 6 42
173	4746	3750				7695	20797	17090				9,729,300	2 6 42
473	2765	3850				6329	19313	17420				9,926,340	2 7 18
170	928	2430				11594	57048	18220				9,977,580	2 7 24
426	2212	3850	234	2523	3526	11919	18950	17380	8739	26755	16442	9,960,420	2 7 24
118	453	3820				11253	9095	17230				9,865,200	2 7 10
435	136	3840				8832	51976	15120				9,065,000	2 4 48
217	836	3760				5641	82289	16910				9,595,520	2 6 18
55	5394	3780	206	1704	3800	3857	37674	17100	7395	32758	16590	9,789,320	2 6 54

It is of course in consequence of the number of mills yet wholly standing, and of those which are partially so, that the complement of employment of the mills which are running full time is formed.

There still remains on the minds of some mill occupiers, the prejudice which they appear to have imbibed from the first, against the use of short-stapled cottons. They will not try them, nor believe in the success which has attended their use by others. They have a firm belief that somehow or other American cotton will yet come; that it will come suddenly, perhaps as soon as they have incurred the expense of the needful alterations to work other cottons, and that thus they will be saddled with expenses which they would far rather have avoided. They do not seem to have yet heard of the quantity of American cotton which has been burnt, or destroyed for want of packages in which to secure it; nor of how much is needed in the Southern States for clothes, bedding, ropes, sails, and for every other article into which it can be converted. They have never heard of the cotton mills which have been erected since the war began in South Carolina and Georgia; nor "that Augusta drills, Graniteville sheetings" and Atlanta shirtings are as well known by purchasers at auction, and command as high a price as the productions of Lowell or Manchester." Furthermore, "the thriving look which other such towns as these have assumed since the numerous mills now in full operation have been built, has not been thought of; nor have the revenue duties which will undoubtedly be placed upon the export of raw cotton from the Southern states so soon as the war shall cease"* been considered. Hence the continued inaction of these gentlemen. It is however, rather a happy circumstance than otherwise under the existing state of things, that so many of the cotton mills are only partially employed; and that this reluctance on the part of the mill occupiers to use short stapled cottons, continues; for it appears from this table, that of all kinds of cotton but American, the exports and home consumption since June last have exceeded the imports; and that with an exception or two, the stocks with which the year began, as Mr. Ashworth predicted, have been greatly reduced; so much so, that if all the spindles of 1860 were working full time and had to be supplied from the stocks now on hand, a very few weeks at the most would see them at a stand for want of material.

Mr. Ashworth has estimated that the supply of cotton for 1864 will be sufficient for $4\frac{1}{2}$ days' employment per week, which has been rather doubted by Mr. Mason and Mr. Cheetham, and has been supposed to be underrated by Mr. Whitworth. I venture to think, with deference to such great authorities,

* "Two Months in the Confederate States, by an English Merchant."

that upon the number of spindles of 1860, and for fifty weeks' employment, the average of the estimates of these three gentlemen would give five days a week employment, if it were all to arrive, and probably furnish quite as much weight of cloth as the cotton of 1860. But it cannot have escaped observation that should the supply be deficient the prices both of raw material and goods will be most materially affected, and that there will of necessity be a great general disturbance of both the cotton and goods markets from time to time, and much speculation and a powerful competition between both manufacturers and merchants.

It is imagined, I am aware, that some of the cotton mills of 1860 will never start again; and that though many new mills have been erected, and several old mills have been extended, the gross total of spindles by the close of 1864 will not very greatly exceed those of 1860. But my experience does not warrant this belief; for in that part of my cotton district which is quite large enough to be taken as a sample of the whole, there have been the following changes within the last eleven months:—

	Number.	Spindles.	Looms.
Mills standing on 1st Jan. 1863	222	2,135,182	28,597
Mills reopened by the same firms			
up to the 1st Nov. 1863	- 65	589,932	13,788
Old mills opened by new tenants			
up to the 1st Nov. 1863	- 21	66,056	1,989
New mills opened in 1863	- 22	99,594	3,542
Extensions opened in 1863	- 20	135,950	1,310

So that it would appear no deterring influence is powerful enough to enable enterprise to withstand the chance of profit, whatever may be the risk of the undertaking; and that there are always others ready to fill the gaps which have been made by those who have either withdrawn from, or have fallen in the ranks. The ratio of the above renewed and extended employment tallies very nearly with the ratio of employment estimated for the whole kingdom in the foregoing table. I am of opinion, therefore, that if there is anything like a supply of cotton, not only will the manufacturers attempt to set all the old mills to work again, but the new ones also; and that therefore the spindles of 1860 must be taken as the basis of enquiry into the anticipated consumption of cotton in this country from the present time. Then, moreover, to the spindles of 1860 are also to be added the new spindles which have commenced to run since 1860, those which are ready to start, and those for which buildings are now in course of erection, and these I have endeavoured to estimate in the following manner. I have taken a portion of my own district, which in 1860 in the aggregate contained 8,000,000 spindles, and multiplied the increased number which I find there now

by four. It is true that to multiply 8,000,000 by four gives rather more than the gross number of spindles of 1860, but still this mode of calculation gives a fair criterion, because the districts from which I have taken my returns are not so large as those for which I have only been able to form an estimate; and the proportion of new spindles in these latter districts will be undoubtedly greater than in my own. Thus the total new cotton spindles in my own district, as they have been returned to me, amount to 1,349,174, which multiplied by four gives a gross aggregate in the kingdom, of 5,396,696, or an increase of 17 per cent. over the spindles of 1860; and the total spindles, say of January 1, 1865, on the same calculation of $9\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of cotton per spindle, will require, instead of 1,051,623,380 lbs. for 1864, 1,238,387,274 lbs. or an increase over the cotton consumed in 1860 of 186,763,894 lbs., which if not supplied, in like ratio the hours of work per week will have to be reduced.

But this is not all. For in 1860 the total number of persons employed in the cotton factories of the United Kingdom was 451,569, of whom 39,788 were short-time children. Estimating all the persons employed as spinners only, then the spindles were at the average rate of 67 spindles per person. If therefore the new spindles amount to 5,396,696, by the same method of calculation the number of additional hands required to work them when all these spindles are in operation will be upwards of 80,500, or a little more than $\frac{1}{5}$ th of all the hands employed in the cotton factories of the United Kingdom in 1860.

And we may, I feel assured, be quite certain that this estimate of new spindles is not exaggerated. It is more likely to be under the amount than over; and they form an element in the future supply of and demand for cotton, which is of great importance.

I have heard it said more than once within the last few months by mill occupiers, and nearly in similar words, "that they are looking for an excessive demand for goods early, for large profits, and for a trade which no one has ever yet seen the like;" and the reason given for this belief, is on account of the exhaustion of stocks and the necessity for cloth; and if you set against this idea, the questions of the supply of labour and of wages, you are answered that such wages will be given, as "will draw hands from the woollen and worsted districts." Where this supply of labour will be obtained, it is not for me to say, or even to conjecture; I am merely reporting to you facts to the best of my knowledge. But if the cotton manufacturers suppose that whenever cotton is cheap again, they shall be able to give such high wages that they will "draw" the hands from the woollen and worsted districts, in spite of all that can be done

to prevent them, I think they are mistaken. Where hands are to be obtained when they will be required, is a question fraught with serious consideration; for already they have been gathered from all quarters of the kingdom, until the most productive labour fields have shewn that they are well nigh exhausted. Of this also I think we may be certain, that if it has taken between two and three years to absorb the over-production of 1860 in the markets of the world, the condition of the cotton trade in 1866 and 1867 will be something wonderful, supposing sufficient cotton to have reached us before that time to have supplied all the spindles which will be then ready to be put in motion, and supposing hands to have been obtained to work them. But with respect to a more proximate period, it cannot be answered satisfactorily that within the period of the present famine the short-time children that were, have all become old enough for full-timers, and that they will compensate for the deficiency; for even if they could all be placed upon full time, they would all be required and more too, to fill the places of those who have been dispersed by emigration and other causes. But from 8 to 13, which are the years of the short-time age, are five years, whilst at the close of 1864 the famine will not have existed four years, and therefore at the utmost, four-fifths only of the short timers of 1860, can be fairly added to the ordinary workers; and this would give but little more than 30,000 persons to the full-time workers which remain. To me, it seems, as if the question of employment for the cotton operatives was fast resolving itself into another question of equally significant importance, and that is, a question of clothing and of paper: and that the rate of wages to be anticipated is one which demands more foresight than up to the present moment appears to have been bestowed upon it. With respect to the average rate of wages between employment in long stapled cottons, and where the short stapled cottons have been thoroughly mastered, there is a little, but not a very important difference. In some departments they are a little lower, but generally they are the same. This is, however, not the case where the difficulties of using short stapled cotton have yet to be overcome.

The following is a very interesting statement of the number of persons relieved by the Committee at Bolton, a district less affected by the famine than many others, owing to the employment of Egyptian cotton.

“TABLE shewing the numbers usually employed on full time, on short time, out of employment, entirely destitute, relieved by the Committee, and the loss of weekly wages, from July 1862 to October 1863.

	No. usually employed.	No. on Full Time.	No. on Short Time.	No. out of Employment.	Estimated No. entirely Destitute.	Estimated Loss of Wages.	No. of Persons Relieved.
July - -	23,697	15,732	4,301	3,664	6,786	3,488	—
August - -	23,803	13,068	6,438	4,297	9,131	4,509	957
September - -	23,667	14,016	5,073	4,578	9,728	4,268	2,561
October - -	23,704	10,112	7,854	5,738	12,193	5,799	6,736
November - -	23,734	9,841	7,079	6,814	14,479	6,210	8,750
December - -	23,514	12,796	4,043	6,675	14,184	5,217	10,690
January - -	23,565	13,277	3,883	6,405	13,610	5,008	9,478
February - -	23,622	12,836	4,687	6,099	12,960	5,065	9,312
March - -	23,623	13,133	4,485	6,005	12,760	4,948	6,978
April - -	23,624	14,110	3,646	5,868	12,469	4,615	6,532
May - -	23,624	16,006	1,811	5,807	12,339	4,028	5,801
June - -	23,623	15,437	2,499	5,687	12,084	4,162	4,504
July - -	23,627	14,926	3,300	5,401	11,477	4,230	4,001
August - -	23,627	16,321	1,617	5,639	12,089	3,898	3,683
September - -	23,624	16,783	1,542	5,299	11,260	3,642	3,288
October - -	23,626	14,224	4,226	5,176	10,999	4,373	2,870

“RELIEF IN FOOD.

“The estimated quantities of food distributed are as follows :—
653,977 lbs. of bread, 1,155,750 lbs. of flour, 235,132 lbs. of meal, 3,282 lbs. of Indian meal, 122,585 lbs. of bacon, 9,419 lbs. of tea, 1,783,662 lbs. of potatoes, 70,905 quarts of soup, 12,600 lbs. of beef, 500 plum puddings. The amount distributed as relief in food from August 1862, to the 30th October 1863, was 16,953*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.*

“RELIEF IN CLOTHING.

“The Clothing Committee distributed from November 1862, to October 1863, the following articles to 3,411 families :—

168 men's and boys' coats and jackets,	2747 petticoats,
347 waistcoats,	377 dresses,
499 pairs of trousers,	233 shawls,
1526 men's and boys' shirts,	554 blankets,
865 flannel vests,	541 sheets,
904 pairs of socks and stockings,	150 counterpanes,
2847 pairs of clogs,	194 bedticks,
70 pairs of shoes,	158 working brats.
2376 chemises.	

“The Committee also redeemed pledges to the amount of 43*l.* 18*s.* 2*d.*”

Returns from the sewing schools, four in number, show the number of articles made in these schools, for distribution by the Clothing Committee, which was as follows :—

“ 3013 chemises,	94 frocks,	7 bolsters,
2949 petticoats,	104 jackets,	6 pillow cases,
1698 shirts,	18 pairs men’s drawers,	4 skips,
879 flannel waistcoats,	1 pair stays,	26 towels,
520 pairs of stockings,	200 bedticks,	4 table cloths,
36 night jackets,	6 bedquilts,	145 floor cloths.
187 pinafores,	5 crib, ditto,	9pairs of garters
161 aprons,	7 sheets,	89 bags,
49 dresses,		

“The ladies who superintended the schools encouraged the girls to purchase necessary articles of wearing apparel made in the schools and often by themselves, and for that purpose received in pence, paid weekly, a sum amounting to 73*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.* The Committee cannot adequately express its deep sense of obligation to the ladies who, at so great a sacrifice of time and comfort, devoted themselves to the arduous duties connected with the successful working of these institutions. They feel persuaded, however, that the influence of their generous and disinterested labours will not be lost; but that, in addition to the girls having been taught the use of the needle, the lessons of cleanliness, order, and thrift which have been impressed upon their minds, will bear abundant fruit in the increased comfort of their homes and their own moral improvement for many years to come. The Committee trust that the ladies may long enjoy pleasurable recollections of these benevolent activities, and that their kindly interest in the distressed female operatives of the town, in this time of calamity, may secure, hereafter, an abundant recognition and recompense.

“SCHOOLS FOR MEN AND BOYS.

For children under 12 years of age, whose parents were receiving relief, and who could not otherwise have been sent to school, the Committee arranged to pay the school pence. The highest number in attendance has been 1045, the lowest 590, the average being 774. The Committee have recently resolved that all children from 12 to 16 years of age shall, while they remain unemployed, attend some school, and have agreed to pay their school pence also. The total cost of the schools, including the payments for school pence, has amounted to 3060*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*”

I may add in conclusion to my remarks on the state of the cotton trade, that wherever I have seen the cotton workers, and even many of the cotton masters, there seems quite an alteration in their physical appearance, since the famine commenced. Notwithstanding the privations and anxieties which they have had to endure, both masters and workers look healthier and better, freer from anxiety and happier; evidencing beyond dispute the value of reasonable working hours, and a frequent change from the vitiated atmospheres of mills, to the out-door exercises and enjoyments of social life.

THE FLAX TRADE.

The flax trade generally, but especially in Ireland, is in a state of the greatest possible activity, not unattended with considerable anxiety as to its immediate future. In the absence of cotton, every exertion has been put forth in the sister country, not only to bring flax into cultivation, but to manipulate it on the most approved scientific principles, so as to develop its capabilities to the utmost. Unfortunately it has to pass through many hands, each having to contribute to this development, so that it can scarcely be expected successfully to compete with cotton in point of price. The landlord, the seed farmer, the flax farmer, the scutcher, and the manufacturer, have all to combine to render the properties of this extraordinary fibre as advantageous as they may be made, and each requires a profit upon the stage through which he carries it; so that when at last the product arrives at the hands of the consumer, its price has been so much enhanced, that its useful properties are not weighed as against cotton, of which, until lately, the purchaser might have had twice or thrice as much for the same money. The past twelve months have formed quite a suggestive epoch in Ireland as to the culture of flax. The acreage sown has increased by 64,022. No evidence of its value has been thought too insignificant to be promulgated far and wide in order to stimulate its growth. Information has been diffused everywhere from Cork to the Giant's Causeway not only to direct agricultural enterprise into its true and safe path, but to point out the difficulties which have hitherto beset it. And if, either from climatic causes or habitudes, all has not been accomplished in this respect, which could have been desired, it has not been for want of effort by the press, nor of the spread of information which any person had to communicate. The response has been,

not only the increase in the acreage sown, which has been shown by Mr. Donnelly in his agricultural statistics, but the spread of useful knowledge for the future, which is the surest guarantee of success. It is to be regretted that we know so imperfectly the quantity of flax grown at home in consequence of the want of similar statistics to those which are conducted so successfully in Ireland. In England, I have endeavoured to obtain the quantity under crop this year, though possibly the return may be somewhat imperfect. The facts, however, have been carefully collected, and the result is, that in Somersetshire it is 500 acres; in Devonshire about 60 acres; in Wiltshire 400 acres; and elsewhere about 11,730 acres, making a total of 13,190 acres.

Added to this, there is a considerable quantity grown and dew retted, and afterwards sold in small parcels, of which I have heard in several of the western counties, but of the acreage of which I could procure no reliable information, and it is not, therefore, taken into the above account. On the whole, the total growth of England may reach, but cannot, I think, exceed 14,000 acres. We have thus a total flax culture available for our manufacturing purposes of 229,592 acres capable of producing on an average estimate nearly 70,000 tons of flax for home consumption.

In Dorsetshire it is stated to be “a very common crop, especially as prices are so high;” but in Somersetshire and elsewhere, “much of it gets into the hands of small owners, who dew ripe it for the markets in their immediate neighbourhood, and scutch it in the winter when other work is scarce.”

Of the produce and quality of English flax, I may as well take this opportunity of giving the information which has been afforded me. In some parts of England it is stated “that the seed will be beyond an average yield, but the fibre will be deficient when compared with other years.” The fact of the seed being over an average yield is of importance, because English seed grown from that which has been well selected in and imported from Riga is considered of great value for the Irish soils, and is very much enquired after.

The quality of the flax grown in Dorsetshire is said to be “of the very best, especially when grown from selected Riga seed;” so good, indeed, has been the produce of this seed both in quality and quantity, says one writer, “that the neighbouring farmers have been flocking to him to buy it

“ for the next year’s crop;” and he believes “ that much more will be grown next year than has ever been.” I have the same account of the value of English seed from Riga sown, from a north of Ireland vendor of flax seed, who has from time to time carried over a considerable quantity of it to Ireland for sale with marked success; and he adds “ that the demand for it is increasing.” The yield per acre from similar seed sown in Dorsetshire is about 16 bushels and about 2 tons of straw, which straw will yield about 6 cwt. of scutched flax, which is more than an average.

“ In former years the farmers of Dorsetshire used to grow much more flax than they do now; but owing to the want of Rettores, they fell into the hands of travelling jobbers, who used to go round and draw and prepare the flax crops, and so fleeced and worried the growers, that they gradually abandoned its growth. Moreover in the county of Dorset, as elsewhere, there are still leases which prohibit its growth altogether, most materially to the detriment of the trade.” Perhaps now that there are one or two rettores sprung up in Dorsetshire, these old fashioned leases will be abandoned or corrected; and flax may be permitted to be grown, conditionally on its being only a seven or eight course crop, especially since it has been discovered and admitted, that, though there was some truth, there was a great deal of nonsense in the theory which existed some years ago of its extravagant exhaustion of the soil; and that there is a great deal of value in the fibre, in the oil cake used by the cattle on the farms, in the retting water, for grass land, for restoring the condition of the land again, and even in the shove. Of the value of flax growing, the correspondent whose words I have quoted above, writes also thus: “ I have paid a farmer 14*l.* an acre for flax, when for wheat he could obtain only 11*l.*” I saw myself on a warehouse floor in Belfast in the month of October the produce of an Irish acre and a half of exceedingly fine flax which had been sent in by an experimental farmer from the county of Sligo, which is not generally a flax-growing county, to be valued at the spinner’s valuation, and to be paid for at the rate which he could afford, who told me he was about to send a cheque for it for 50*l.* I quote also an extract from the *Nenagh Guardian* to the same effect: “ A correspondent informs us that Mrs. Fleetwood of Behouse, near Cloughgordon, obtained this year 30*l.* for two acres of flax which she disposed of in its raw state to a gentleman who has set up a manufactory for the preparation of flax;” and again, from the *Cork Constitution*: “ As to the flax question, if your landed proprietors are not roused by the immense produce and good prices we have in the north this year, they do not deserve to have their rents paid them.

“ I gave out 12 barrels of seed at three guineas a barrel to my tenants in Derrylittleagh, a townland I have near Lough Neagh, the rental of which is about 375*l.* a year. Well, the flax crop of these 12 barrels would have paid the entire rent of the townland, without the aid of any other crop, and this from 42 acres alone, as only a limited number of tenants chose to sow it.”

Moreover, the flax crop can only be looked upon as an intermediate crop, the seed being sown in April, and the ground being very soon set at liberty.

It is true, that with respect to the produce, there is sometimes a great difference. There is not only a great difference between that of different counties in England, but between that of England and Ireland; even in the contrast between two fields on the same farm it may vary very much. This year in Wiltshire and Dorsetshire the crop has been far superior to what it has been for many years, the flax plant preferring a genial summer to a cold and cheerless one.

In those counties where the climate is naturally cold, the report is, that the season has not been favourable to flax growing. The weather was too dry in the spring, when the seed was sown. Thus on the strong land the crops are very poor, and the whole product is stated to be below an average. The estimate is 20 stones of flax per acre and 12 bushels of seed, which is less by four bushels of seed but considerably more in straw product than in Dorsetshire, where two tons of straw per acre is considered a large crop.

In many parts of England in 1862 the crop was very good. It is equally good in 1863, and is, in fact, expected to yield more at the scutch mill. Thus the yield in Somerset has been about four per cent. better than the last few years. The average of the crops round Yeovil is from 13 to 16 bushels of seed, and from five to six cwt. of flax per acre, after scutching. “ The produce of straw,” says one writer, “ depends on the quality and cultivation of the land. In middling and unclean soils, from eight to 10 bushels of seed, with about a ton of straw, and from 20 to 25 dozen of flax. In clean and properly cultivated land, from 10 to 14 bushels of seed, occasionally 15 to 16 bushels, from 25 to 30 cwt. of straw, and from 40 to 60 dozen of flax. Much, however, depends upon what sort of spring we have. If a cold and dry time, the yield will not be so good. Moreover, the yield of short flax is not in proportion to long flax, as there are only two ends or very little more to short flax. Furthermore, there is not at present the pains taken with the soil for flax as for other crops. Farmers generally or with few exceptions think any ground will do for a flax crop; that they have only to plough it and put in the seed, and as soon as it is well in blossom to offer it for sale, harvest it as they can.

“ Little attention has been hitherto paid to the proper
“ cultivation of flax in this country, neither is it grown in
“ any quantity, only in small patches, equal inattention
“ being paid to the quality of the seed so long as it can be
“ had cheap, and hence the unprofitable result. In some
“ cases we (i.e. the buyer) have had as much as three cwt.
“ of weeds in a ton of straw. The land in Somerset is well
“ adapted for flax, but it is not grown with any spirit.” In
Devonshire still less is grown, as the farmers are very much
prohibited from growing it by the landlords.

This, Sir, I believe to be about the present history of the flax culture in England; and it is to be regretted that so many of the prejudices about it remain, especially at a time, when it might be, if it is not, of the deepest interest to one branch of our textile welfare. I have spoken about it more as if I were writing on agriculture than as an Inspector of Factories; but in the south and west of England, and in Ireland, I have so many flax manufacturers whom it may interest to know these particulars, that I have detailed them more than I should perhaps have otherwise done. With the future race of farmers and landlords it is to be hoped that all the old prejudices against growing this valuable fibre will be exploded by science, and that it will become a staple in this country as it is in the sister island. One thing it is satisfactory to observe, that in the present day, whatever there was of rivalry, in years past, between the manufacturing and agricultural interests, appears to be fast breaking up.

It used to be argued, that if the farmers were to change their course of cultivation, and supply the spinners with the 70,000 tons of flax which were then imported, its value would be materially diminished when the extra production came in contact with the foreign growth. That then there would be an end to the boasted profits of flax cultivation; and that such a probable diminution in price was the reason why the advocates for the growth of flax in this country were supported, not only with the opinions, but by the contributions of the flax spinners as a body, on the ground that the more flax was produced, the lower in price it would become, thus enabling the spinners of the country to compete with their continental neighbours.

And well it is for us that such sentiments are becoming obsolete, for if the cotton growers everywhere were to use the same argument, the cotton famine would remain to the end of time.

By the present movement in favour of flax growing I am quite sure that no harm is intended to the present flax cultivation. No doubt a very much larger growth might, before it has been met by a corresponding increase of machinery, tend

to reduce the price per ton; but the improved methods of culture, manipulation, and manufacture which are suggested by the trade, if pursued, would have exactly an equal tendency to reduce the cost of cultivation, and thereby to still keep the price remunerative to the grower. If the consequence of being dependent on one staple, and that a foreign one, for the labour of our industrial classes, be looked fairly in the face, no matter what may be the present prospect of its supply, our experience of the last two years will, I think, teach us that it would be better to place a little stronger reliance on a production of our own soil than we do, which can only be affected by the hand of Providence, and not by the hand of man.

We import about 78,191 tons of flax a year, according to the average of seven years ending 31st December 1862. Can there be any reason why we should not grow it for ourselves, and give the millions which we pay for it, to our own countrymen? In 1862 Messrs. Dewar, of Cheapside, estimated the average consumption of flax in the United Kingdom at 100,000 tons, stating also, that fully as much more was required. I have attempted to show that in this year the average of flax sown in the United Kingdom is equal to a production of 70,000 tons. But this is far from what we are capable of accomplishing. The census of 1861 gives the entire acreage of England and Wales as 37,324,883, which, divided amongst the farmers and graziers of England and Wales, gives to each farm an average size of 149 acres. Now if we add to this the acreage of Scotland and Ireland also, and divide the sum by the acres to a farm, we obtain the number of farms in the United Kingdom.

Supposing then that every farmer could be induced to grow five acres of flax for one year as an experiment, the produce, at a low average rate of 4 cwt. to the acre, would be equivalent to 511,850 tons. But supposing only half the land, or half the inclinations of the farmers would admit of this growth, we should still have a production of 255,925 tons, which would be more than twice as much as Mr. Dewar's estimate; and without interfering with the cotton trade at all, would give the odd day and a half's employment to the cotton districts which, according to Mr. Ashworth's calculations, will be wanting in 1865, and perhaps in 1866; and would distribute to the farmers themselves between two and three millions of hard cash which otherwise they would never touch. Moreover, of this we may be sure, that without this home growth should there ever be a time when we cannot obtain foreign flax, we shall then have a flax famine, as we have lately had a cotton famine; and whether there is ever such a time or not, the flax spinning spindles of the European continent have within these late years so largely increased, that much of the flax grown abroad will be wanted for home consumption; and though we

may possibly obtain some of it, the prices of it will be enhanced, and our own farmers had better therefore prepare to help us under the contingency.

I am indebted for the following extremely valuable information on this interesting subject to a gentleman in the neighbourhood of Belfast, to whom it has long been a matter of consideration and inquiry.

“ Estimated Quantity of Flax consumed annually in the United Kingdom.

“ England and Wales, 344,308 spindles @ $1\frac{1}{10}$ th tons per 1,000 spindles per week, = 50 weeks @ $378\frac{1}{2}$ tons per week, 18,925 tons.

“ Scotland, 279,385 spindles @ $3\frac{1}{2}$ tons, per 1,000 spindles per week, = 50 weeks @ $977\frac{1}{2}$ tons per week, 48,875 tons.

“ Ireland, 592,981 spindles @ $1\frac{1}{10}$ th tons per 1,000 spindles per week, = 50 weeks @ 652 tons per week, 32,600 tons.

“ Total average consumption in the United Kingdom annually, 100,400 tons.

“ Amount of flax imported into the United Kingdom:

In 1856	=	84,352 tons.
1857	=	93,312 „
1858	=	64,195 „
1859	=	71,601 „
1860	=	77,277 „
1861	=	66,684 „
1862	=	89,917 „

Total in 7 years - 547,338 „, average 78,191 tons per annum.

“ Estimated Quantity of Flax grown in Ireland.

Grown in	Statute acres.	Tons.
1856	= 106,311 @ $4\frac{1}{2}$ cwts. to the acre,	23,920
1857	= 97,721 @ $4\frac{1}{2}$ „	21,987
1858	= 91,646 @ $4\frac{1}{2}$ „	20,620
1859	= 136,282 @ $4\frac{1}{2}$ „	30,663
1860	= 128,595 @ $4\frac{1}{2}$ „	28,935
1861	= 147,958 @ $4\frac{1}{4}$ „	31,440
1862	= 150,070 @ 4 „	30,014

Average tons per annum 26,797. Total in 7 years 187,587.

“ The average imports and Irish crop for the seven years ending 31st December 1862 are therefore about 105,000 tons per annum. The difference between this quantity, and what I have estimated as the annual consumption, say 4 or 5,000 tons, is partly accounted for by exports to the continent of Europe, and to America.

“ The Irish crop of 1863 has been far above an average, both in the number of acres sown and the amount of produce per acre. The number of acres sown were 214,092, and I estimate the average product per acre at six cwts. This would give 64,227 tons as our crops of this year, or 61·7 per cent. of the average

annual consumption. The estimate given above, is for the average consumption of the United Kingdom ; but this year the consumption will exceed the average, by not less than from 25 to 30 per cent. This increase has been caused, partly by an increased number of spindles being employed, but principally by the lowering of the average numbers of yarn spun. In Ireland, I am quite confident, the average weekly consumption will be $1\frac{1}{2}$ tons per 1,000 spindles per week ; and in England, I believe the amount will be quite as much.

“ This would give 70,800 tons, as the consumption of England and Ireland, instead of 51,525 tons, as estimated above. Supposing the consumption in Scotland to have increased in the same ratio, our total consumption cannot at the present time, be less than at the rate of 140,000 tons per annum. Where is this flax to come from ? The import into the United Kingdom in 1862, amounted to 89,917 tons. I have no means of knowing the total imports for 1863 ; but into the six ports, namely, Dundee, Aberdeen, Montrose, Arbroath, Kirkcaldy, and Hull, for the 11 months ending 30th November 1862, of tow and flax together they amounted to 69,164 tons ; while for the 11 months ending 30th November 1863, the imports of flax and tow were 52,797 tons, shewing a deficiency of 16,367 tons. If therefore our imports do not increase rapidly in the early part of next year, our stocks will become totally exhausted, and we shall have famine prices for flax as well as cotton.

“ I have it on the best authority, that the machine makers of Belfast and Leeds have now orders on hand for 200,000 spindles of flax machinery, all for low numbers of yarn, which they are bound to finish by June next. If this additional machinery comes into operation it will require 15,000 to 20,000 tons of flax additional, to keep it employed. Our total consumption would then be nearly 170,000 tons per annum. I am told that the very same state of things exists on the continent of Europe, and that the French spinners are commencing to work night and day. The great problem, then, to be solved by all connected with the trade, is, how best to improve the production of flax, not only in the United Kingdom, but on the Continent as well. To keep pace with our consumption, we ought to have 4 or 500,000 acres grown in the British Isles in 1864. We cannot expect to have so large a produce per acre in Ireland next year, as we have had so much above an average this year ; and although we are almost certain to have a larger breadth of land sown, yet we shall be most fortunate if we have so much flax for the spinners.

“ I have no doubt but that our price this year will average 70*l.* a ton at least. At this price our crop is worth four and a half millions sterling. This ought surely to be an inducement for other parts of the Empire to imitate Ulster and do likewise. It is a shame that the farmers of the poorest soil in the empire should do more good to our home trade than all their brethren. As for the exhaustion of the soil by it, all crops are exhausters of the soil, if grown for the purpose of producing and ripening seed, and so would flax be, if the production of seed was the

object in view. But it is absolutely necessary, if fine fibre is to be produced, that flax must be pulled before the seed is ripe, and agricultural chemists and farmers of practical experience will both concur in this, that flax grown for fine fibre does not exhaust the soil comparatively with the reputation which it has for doing so."

For a long while now, cotton goods have been a necessity to the people of this and other countries, and linen, a luxury. But it may be possible that the time has arrived, if the farmers of this kingdom would only respond to the efforts of the manufacturers, when linen may become again an article of general use; and without entering into an unfriendly rivalry with cotton, may at least hope to share with it in its useful and profitable results. Cheapness of production and warmth of material have been the great reasons why linen has been so long preferred to cotton. I doubt whether cotton is so healthy a wear as linen. But there is also a further reason, which is, that the shopkeepers have, for a long time, demanded and obtained a higher proportionate rate of profits on linen than on cotton goods; a rate so high, as to be quite deterrent to poorer purchasers. This is a practice, however, for which there lies a simple remedy, and which will certainly be applied if the practice continues.

There is, it appears to me, already a mean price between cotton and linen goods, which will hereafter be maintained, however cheap cotton may be. Above this mean, linen will not be able to compete with cotton, nor cotton with linen below it; whilst on either side of it each branch of trade will be able successfully to compete with the other, but need not interfere with each other. This mean will not, however, be found in any experience of the past, but in the progress of the future. It is not in the mere cheapness with which flax can be grown, for that would cease as soon as the price became unremunerative; but it is in the making available, for the purposes of manufacture, every fibre of that which is grown; and in wasting nothing of it which is intrinsically valuable. It is to the Irish linen trade that we are indebted for the introduction of this principle. It has printed and distributed several forms of instructions, both in pamphlets and in the most extensively circulated journals, as well as at public meetings, how best to cultivate flax in every stage of its growth, how best to economize time, labour, and power over it, what to crop with it and after it, and after how many years the course of cropping should come round again. The results likely to arise from these measures appear to me to be as follows:—

Firstly, a cleaner cultivation of the soil.

Secondly, a better selection of the seed.

Thirdly, a better arrangement of cropping.

Fourthly, a more careful manipulation and appropriation of the products ; and

Lastly, an encouragement to persevere, until flax has become a staple of the active value which it represents.

“ Thus it has been stated in the county of Antrim ‘ that if
 “ ‘ the prices of flax remain steady, an increased breadth of
 “ ‘ ground will be prepared for the next year’s crop.’ The
 “ farmers of this locality last season purchased the seed
 “ from a highly respectable importer, and it has turned out
 “ so well that they intend adopting the same plan next year.
 “ The distribution by the Linen Trade Committee of printed
 “ instructions for the improved growth and after management
 “ of flax, will be very serviceable ; more particularly as they
 “ also contain directions for the preparation of the very
 “ description of soil most suitable for the profitable growth
 “ of flax.” And again by another writer : “ There is now
 “ no practical limit to our Irish linen trade except the full
 “ supplies of raw material. We are cheapening linen by
 “ manufacturing processes and mechanical improvements
 “ until we have even superseded calicoes.”

I have been favoured with several specimens of the comparative prices between linen and cotton goods, weight for weight, in which this fact is demonstrated, some of which were as follows, in October last, though no doubt they may have varied very much since then :—

No. 1.	33 ins. wide, linen	6d. a yd., weight of 60 yds.	23 $\frac{3}{8}$ lbs.
	“ cotton	6 $\frac{7}{16}$ d. “ “	“ “
No. 2.	“ linen	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. “ “	14 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
	“ cotton	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. “ “	“ “
No. 3. 28	“ linen	7d. “ “	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
	“ cotton	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. “ “	“ “
No. 4. 27	“ linen	6 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. “ “	15 $\frac{1}{8}$ lbs.
	“ cotton	7 $\frac{3}{8}$ d. “ “	“ “
No. 5. 25	“ linen	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. “ “	12 $\frac{7}{8}$ lbs.
	“ cotton	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. “ “	“ “

I apprehend that the chief reasons why both the English and many of the Irish farmers, especially in the south of Ireland, have been unwilling to grow flax to the extent which might have been expected from them, are, first the difficulty in dry seasons of getting their flax scutched in the country, there being in some districts comparatively but few steam scutch mills ; secondly, the great waste, to call it by its gentlest name, which has taken place at the little water scutch mills ; and thirdly, the distance of the grower from any adequate market after his flax has been prepared. And after all, perhaps not very much progress will be made in flax growing, either in England, or in Ireland comparatively, especially in England, unless something is done with regard to the third of these reasons ; for it will be in vain to ask

the farmers to appropriate either five or any other number of acres to flax growing, unless they see their way to convenient markets for it afterwards. They may cultivate it as scientifically as they please, but unless they can rett it and have it inexpensively scutched, there may be an effort made in its behalf just now, owing to present high prices, but it will languish and again fall away as it has hitherto done, instead of being a crop which it would be most desirable because the most profitable for them to grow. I have been informed with respect to some of the scutch mills in Ireland, that the waste made at them has often been used by the scutchers to burn on their fires at home, and yet it is very valuable; for even the short shove has been mixed with tar and made into lights for night burning. But the short fibre which falls with the shove is capable of being put to spinning purposes; and the tow particularly, 1 cwt. of which usually falls to the ton of flax. I believe, however, that there is now a considerable improvement in the economy of these matters.

These then being some of the elements of improvement in the growth and manipulation of flax, by which it is to be cheapened so as to bring it into more general use again without prejudice to the agriculturist, permit me to bring before you a suggestion by which it is hoped and expected that this cheapness may be attained without prejudice to the farmer. I do not wish to make public any individual invention to the disparagement of others, but I have seen one set of machines, and I have only seen one (no doubt there are more), which appears to me to answer the purposes of the flax grower; and which would not unlikely be found satisfactory to him, both in the way of convenience and profit. They are, if I remember right, the invention of a Mr. Friedlander, of Breslau, and consist of

First, a small beetling or bruising machine of five or six hammers.

Secondly, a scutching machine, and

Thirdly, a machine for separating the chip from the very short fibre, which has hitherto been made into nail bagging, and of bringing that into tow, of which yarns may be spun into from 10 to 14 lea. These machines appeared to me to do their work admirably, and were so reported of to me by those who thoroughly understand them; and so invaluable in their application especially at the present time, that I asked Mr. Friedlander, whom I was fortunate enough to meet, to give me a fuller description of them for the purpose of this report, which I subjoin; because I am satisfied that no good can accrue, but harm might, in attempting to induce the farmers to grow flax, unless at the same time the way can be pointed out, by which it can be readily brought profitably to market. Farmers have I believe before now

grown flax on the faith of public companies who were merely buyers, and have after awhile been left to get it scutched themselves as they best might, and have been quite disgusted at length by the apathy with which they have been treated. For it makes all the difference in the world to have the steeping and scutching of flax properly effected, since it may vary the price of it as much as 40% a ton and more. I have been favoured with samples of French flax at 150% a ton, of English at 60% a ton, and with Irish at 104% a ton, and I have been informed by a gentleman thoroughly conversant with the subject, that with the management due to its quality, certain kinds of Irish flax may be scutched equal to any flax which may be bought.

“The price of the little beetling machine,” says Mr. Friedlander, “is 35% and it will beetle per day from 12 to 15 cwt. of straw. Hand beetling in the Belgian fashion (which is the model fashion extant,) would not do more than 100 lb. per man per day. The price of the scutching machine is 40%. The tow cleaning machine is 120%, but not at present to be sold in Ireland. The tow machine is of the utmost importance for cleaning the coarsest refuse and rendering it equal to jute, and thus an immense amount of fibre burnt and lost, or spun into nail bagging, will be brought into spinning of from 8 to 14 lea.

“Before I speak of our machines, let me say a word on the pitiable way in which this valuable (fibre flax) has been treated, down to the present day, instead of keeping pace with cotton, by the adoption of such inventions and improvements in the manufacture of it as are in accordance with the peculiar nature and value of flax. Very few growers of flax know the nature of this textile; are not aware what treatment will preserve and increase its spinning capabilities; and how much the natural oil, called the nature of the flax, is required for making the flax what it ought to be. Only in Brabant and Flanders have these points been matters of study and are comprehended. Here and in Ireland we have found water-steeping, but in all other parts of Europe dew retting, which produces serious mischief to the spinning qualities of the fibre. Hence the great loss to the English grower and spinner; since dew retted flax does not yield more than from 12 to 14 lbs of clean flax to the 100 lbs. of steeped straw, and this yield will not give more to the spinner than from 23 to 33 per cent., seldom to 50 per cent. of scutched flax, whilst water-steeped flax will yield from 16 to 26 per cent., and in the hackling from 50 to 75 per cent. In Ireland the quality of some of the flax is such, that with proper scutching it could compete with foreign flax up to even 160% a ton and higher.

“ To shew the value to the farmer of growing flax, even if
“ the present struggle in America should cease, permit me
“ to refer to the average price of cotton during and between
“ the years 1855 and 1859, all qualities compounded and
“ combined, which was equal to 60*l.* sterling per ton; and
“ this price will always be a very good average price for flax;
“ one acre will yield of clear flax 4 cwt. or more, and if it
“ is properly scutched, the soil well cleared, the seed well
“ selected and clean, there would be little to be paid in
“ wages for weeding the fields. The seed obtained will fully
“ cover the seed sown, the tow will repay the wages, and
“ even if the flax has to be brought to the scutch mill they
“ will only charge 1½*d.* per lb., giving back the tow; 4 cwt. at
“ 60*l.* a ton, will show an approximate revenue of 45*l.* an acre
“ of which not more than 3*l.* need be calculated for wages,
“ so that tow and seed will repay the wages. Then again
“ the revenue would be increased by an intermediate crop
“ being taken, on the flax crop being harvested. In the same
“ year the farmer may obtain a good crop of clover by sowing
“ it with flax, or of turnips by sowing them after the flax
“ has been pulled. It is an utterly absurd statement that
“ flax will abuse the soil, provided it is not grown oftener
“ than every seventh year upon the same soil.* It is fur-
“ thermore of great importance to remember that the soil
“ for flax does not want manuring, and that in fertile soils
“ it will grow the best as a third crop in rotation. It is
“ also a first rate crop in light potato soil, requiring only
“ moisture from below. As there are so many reasons why
“ flax should be extensively grown in the United Kingdom
“ I would further add, that the pastures on which steeped
“ flax is laid to dry, will give more abundant crops of grass
“ for it, and that the water from the steeping pools is most
“ useful for these pastures also. Of very material importance
“ is the proper steeping and scutching. The waste in cotton
“ is comparatively small, but in flax very large. The effi-
“ ciency of water steeping and of good machine scutching
“ will reduce this disadvantage very considerably, even to
“ the standard of Belgian flax. One of the greatest dis-
“ advantages of flax scutching is money matters. Wealthy
“ and respectable firms should be at the head of establish-
“ ments for it. We see now, flax, scutched in Ireland in a
“ most shameful way, and a large per-centage actually lost
“ by it, equal to 28 or 30 per cent., which would be saved
“ if there were scutch mills conducted by firms whose
“ principles would not allow this devastation of fibre, and
“ who would have the means of putting up all the most
“ valuable machinery.”

* The best English authorities say ten years, at the least eight.

It is in this way, by careful steeping and still more careful scutching, that Mr. Friedlander attempts to shew, and I think succeeds in shewing, that flax crops might be exceedingly profitable to the farmers of the United Kingdom. It is no business of mine to compare crop with crop, nor to discuss what is more a matter for agriculturists than for me; but if the growth of flax can thus be shewn to be so profitable and without being exhausting to the soil under a crop rotation of 8 years, and if five acres sown on half the farms of the United Kingdom would relieve us from the danger of the clothing famine, which appears to be so imminent, or would supply the additional day and a half's employment per week extra to the Lancashire operatives, of which it is predicted they will be short in 1864 and 1865, or find that employment for the flax trade of which any accident to our Imports might deprive us at any time, it would be evincing a spirit of true patriotism to attempt it.

May we not then hope to see within a very short space of time, perambulating scutching machines along with the threshing machines which traverse our country roads, visiting our farmers for the double purpose of threshing the corn which has been harvested, and scutching the flax, in districts where there are no permanent rettories. A farmer would only have to prepare a steep pool in some field, 12 to 18 feet broad and $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep, to be filled with soft water during rainy seasons, in which to steep his flax as soon as he had notice of the probable advent of the scutcher, and then he may be as certain of his flax crop being prepared for the market as his corn crop, and at a comparatively small expense; and without being obliged to sell it at a diminished price on account of his distance from such machines, or of having to use it for thatch as is done in one county in England. Or such perambulating flax machines might be taken to any convenient railway stations periodically, to which the neighbouring flax could be brought, and there it might be scutched and distributed to different markets. In this way the greatest difficulty of flax growing would be overcome; and in these days of public companies, there are few schemes which would present such promise of success as one for this peculiar purpose.

It may be answered to all these arguments for growing an increased quantity of flax, that every flax spindle is now at work, working every moment that the law allows, and therefore that there could be no possible demand for a larger produce of raw material for some time to come, and it is true. But there are still plenty of empty mills which could be readily filled with machinery. There is no calculating, indeed, what strides our commerce may take in these days, and our happiest course will be to believe that as our

factories have hitherto filled succeeding markets with our textile products, so other markets will arise with the spread of civilization, and have to be filled likewise, and that therefore it is our duty to be ready to act whenever action may be required of us.

CIVIL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE WORKERS.

I HAVE spoken, in my former reports, of the danger which arises to society from the indiscriminate congregation of the sexes in factories and in workshops generally, without some moral supervision; and I have pointed out, by referring to the system of Factory Chaplaincies, how it may, in some measure, be avoided. But I think there is a still greater danger consecutive on the employment of young mothers in congregational labour, the result of which is a considerable loss of infant life annually, a loss which might be saved to the country, and in lives which are literally thrown away.

I have no desire to see instituted a legal prohibition of such workers, if it can be accomplished otherwise. But a prohibition of such employment except under conditions, I am afraid is necessary, not only for the social comfort of the working classes, but as a sanitary regulation of the highest value.

I scarcely need argue, that there can be comparatively no comfort in the dwelling of a working man whose wife is away from home from half past five in the morning till half past six in the evening, except at meal times; for she is compelled to leave her children and her household to other hands; and having so little experience of her own, is quite unable to teach her daughters those attractive qualifications which are to keep their future husbands from disreputable associations. I am aware that the answer to the suggestion of a prohibition may be, that the manufacturer's doors are open to all kinds of labour, and that it is no business of his to enquire into or to trouble himself specially with the social condition of the applicants; and that so long as he pays the wages which they ask, society has no claim upon him for anything further, but is rather his debtor for the employment which he gives, and for the money which it distributes.

But this is scarcely the fact. There is something to be considered in the kind of labour in which the people are employed, in the profit which it brings, and in the disadvantages that are attendant on it, and which may have, no matter how far distant that result may be, a bad effect on the social economy of a neighbourhood.

If infant and female labour are the most delicate and the most subordinate of all kinds of labour, and therefore the

most profitable and the most desirable to the manufacturer, then, in mixing the sexes at all ages, the great good and the little bad together for his own benefit, he is bound, as far as may be possible, to provide against any extraordinary development of the vices of our nature in consequence of this congregation, or to endeavour to counteract them. It is in such schools as these that depravity develops with the utmost rapidity, and inflicts a serious wound upon the society of the places where these workshops exist; and which, if not attempted to be met and dealt with by an independent philanthropy, would be utterly ruinous to our character as a nation. This is but the moral point of view in which the question is to be considered. In its physical aspect it is more serious; for when life is concerned, the lives of a vast mass of people, and when it can be clearly shewn that there is a specific fatality attendant upon such employment, we are bound, I think, to take more earnest measures than those, which would be justifiable perhaps under the moral aspect only.

And in an inquiry like this there cannot be said to be any pseudo-philanthropy; any desire to miscall or misplace the exigencies of labour, nor any wish to impose upon the manufacturing interest a duty which does not strictly belong to it.

I believe it is on record, that nearly half of all the children born in what are called specific populations in England, die before they arrive at five years old, contrary to the common law of mortality which fixes this epoch at a much later period. A French physiologist of great observation, writing some years ago upon this subject, touches upon it in the following words:—

“From late accurate observations of the age at which a number of persons have died, and from a comparison of deaths with the births, it has been ascertained that about one fourth of the children that are born, die within the first eleven months, one third between eleven and twenty-three months, and one half before they reach the eighth year.”

In England and Wales it is shown by the returns of the Registrar General that of 1,000 children born alive 737 attain the age of 5 years, 663 attain the age of 20 years, and 503 attain the age of 45 years. But from a life table for a specific population, based on the living and dying in 1841, it was found that of 1,000 children born alive only 522 attained the age of five years. In a comparison between the deaths in an agricultural and a specific population, he remarks that the one presents a specimen of how life wastes in the country populations, the other being an example at the other extreme,

of the effects of concentration in towns without any adequate provision for removing the effluvia, and for securing by art the degree and purity in the dwellings and atmosphere which is partly maintained by nature in the open cultivated country. He wishes it, however, to be distinctly understood that the former has not been selected as the healthiest county; and that, in his opinion, it will be found upon inquiry there are parts of most towns of England as unfavourable as the latter. Out of 141,450 boys under 5 years of age, 2,087 died in the one; in the other only 699. He adds also in another part of the same report, "out of 100,000 children, supposing them to be all " born on January 1, 1841, only 85,369 were alive on January 1, " 1842; 14,631 perished in the first year, the fourth part of them " in the first month of life, and 5,267 died in the second year."

If then it be true that infant mortality is greater than it was before our populations had become so incremented in towns and districts as they now are, it seems a positive duty to enquire into the causes of it, for some of them may lie among our social or industrial relations, and are therefore the more likely to pass unnoticed. These causes have already been sought for in ill-contrived dwellings, houses back to back and with insufficient cubic measure of breathing room, in imperfect drainage, in miasms of various kinds generated in workshops and elsewhere, in parental neglect, or in the abuse of narcotics given for the purpose of putting children to sleep whilst their mothers are following their avocations from home, and which produce convulsions, which too often end in premature death.

My experience convinces me, that of all the extraordinary causes of infantile deaths, the two latter are to be regarded as the most prevalent. They appertain to all labour in workshops at a distance from home, but more particularly to that which is congregational; and this impression has been confirmed to me often by the certifying surgeons of factories, as well as by my own observation. I was also very much struck with the observations made by an eminent surgeon, Mr. Alexander Somers, a lecturer at one of our largest provincial hospitals, who in his opening address to his pupils at the commencement of the present session, in October last, alluded to this subject in the following terms:—

" The rate of infant mortality in our manufacturing districts was something appalling. In the year 1843 the late Rev. Mr. Clay stated that in one burial club upwards of 64 per cent. of the members died under five years of age. In this city and the surrounding districts it was well known that when trade was good among the working classes, the husband frequently retained a considerable portion of his wages, often one half, to spend in drink and tobacco.

The wife, to make up for this most damaging deficiency of income, had to continue at factory labour for years after marriage. One of the greatest evils resulting from this state of things was that this daily tax upon the physical energies of mothers at a time when nature almost imperatively demanded that they should almost solely be devoted to the nurture of their offspring, acted most injuriously upon their own constitutions and upon that of their infants; and as the mothers were almost necessarily absent during the greater part of the day, the habit of dosing the poor infants, thus deprived for so long a period of their natural sustenance, with Godfrey's cordial, and other similar preparations containing opium, to induce sleep and to deaden hunger, prevailed to a fearful extent. Thousands of children so treated by those hired to take care of them in the absence of their mothers, lose flesh, colour, and appetite, their skin was sallow and wrinkled, their features pinched and shrivelled, and they gradually pined away and died; others perished from disease of the brain, and some after a larger dose than usual fell into a profound sleep from which they never woke. Things were still worse in the manufacturing towns of France. One of the popular fallacies of the present day was, that decomposing animal and vegetable matter was the chief promoter of zymotic diseases. Hence legislators, philanthropists, sanitary reformers and boards of health, had instituted a vigorous crusade against cess-pools, duckponds, pigsties, and all things else which the sense of smell declared a nuisance. By effectually removing these they vainly hoped to banish for ever a class of diseases hitherto so fatal to the human race, and thereby to increase the average duration of human life. Organic matter in a state of decay was only one, and by no means the worst of those baneful influences which, by lowering the tone of the general health, assisted in predisposing to disease. Bad nursing, insufficient food, excessive labour, whether of mind or body, depressing and exciting passions, abuse of narcotics, to which infants in the manufacturing districts were subjected, in order that their fathers might drink and smoke, drunkenness and debauchery, each of these numbered its victims, enervated the mind, enfeebled the body, and hurried thousands prematurely to the grave."

Dr. Farr, in his report to the Registrar General which I have quoted, says: "The sudden deaths of children are generally ascribed to convulsions;" and speaking of one of his visits to some districts in the metropolis, he adds: "Depravity of mind and habits is the salient feature of the worst portion of a town population. The women look drunken, half washed, and herd with the men; the children dirty, wasted, and ricketty, mischievous, or wicked." To this extent, then, the conclusions of Dr. Farr also agree with the observation of Mr. Somers, not only as to convulsions being a serious cause of death, but as to the squalid and unhealthy appearance of the children; and their condition

spoken of by Mr. Somers is but the type of which Dr. Farr's experience exhibits the prototype.

But this question of infantile deaths from convulsions, and even from hydrocephalus, diseases which are truly infantile, almost peculiar to the first year, and almost, indeed, to the first six months, of life, may be further tested. The tables in the Registrar-General's report for 1843, exhibiting the causes of death registered in 1841 in the districts of 25 towns, as Aston, Bath, Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Clifton, Dudley, Exeter, Leicester, Northampton, Stoke-upon-Trent, Wolstanton, Wolverhampton, in Cornwall, Devonshire, Dorsetshire, Somersetshire, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, and similar populations, specific as well as agricultural, (also the mortality to 1,000,000 living,) the amount of population being about the same in each district, shew that whilst the average of deaths of children in towns from hydrocephalus reached 874, in the country it was only 333; and whilst there died from convulsions in town districts 1,832, there only died from the same cause in the country districts 772.

For myself, I can also endorse what Mr. Somers says; and I have singular testimony to the same fact, (i.e.) of the increase of infantile deaths in industrial over agricultural or even over certain town districts, from the experience of one of the largest cotton spinners in Mullhouse, in France. And it is a remarkable circumstance, that in like manner as the first Sir Robert Peel, upon the conviction of its necessity from his own experience, brought in the first Act for the Regulation of Cotton Works and Factories, so the clearest light which has shone upon a question of such undoubted importance as the loss of infant life, and its effect upon an aggregate mortality, appears to have emanated also from a cotton spinner, who employs not less than 2,500 persons, and who has therefore not only had every opportunity of convincing himself of the fact of the mortality to which he has referred, but of experimenting on the causes of it, and of endeavouring to devise a remedy for it.

The following article is extracted from the "*Industriel Alsacien*" of the 4th of June last.

"M. Jean Dollfus made, at the last seance of the Industrial Society at Mullhouse, the following communication, which is of great interest in the cause of humanity, and which we readily submit to our readers. We have, at Mullhouse, many excellent institutions for ameliorating the general condition of our population; yet notwithstanding this, truly there are few localities in France where the mortality of infants, especially during the

first year after birth, is so considerable. Out of 1,622 infants born at Mullhouse in 1861, without taking into consideration the still born, 645 died before the age of one year, or about 39 per cent., or four in 10. In 1862 there were born 1,794, and 445 died, being $30\frac{1}{2}$ per cent; whilst of those in Paris in 1860 and 1861, there were not more than 16·2 per cent. At Colmar in 1861, 20·7 per cent., and in 1862 23·3 per cent.

“In towns entirely industrial, where the working population is as numerous as at Mullhouse, the mortality is also infinitely less. Thus at Roubaix in 1861, out of 2,094 births, the deaths for the first year were not more than 404, or 19·3 per cent.; in 1862, out of 2,120 births, there were 380 deaths, or 17·9 per cent. At Amiens, in 1861 and 1862, out of 1,513 and 1,485 births, there were 331 and 228 deaths respectively, or 21·9 and 19·4 per cent.

“The average of deaths in the first year of births for the town of Paris, Roubaix, Amiens, Dijon, Strasbourg, Colmar, and Mullhouse, was between 18 and 19 per cent. for 1861 and 1862.

“It results then, evidently, from these comparisons, that something is needful among us, in order to preserve the lives of a great number of children. The mortality is especially very considerable amongst those children whose mothers are employed in factories and workshops. As her wages are necessary towards the maintenance of her family, she returns, ordinarily, very much too soon to her work; and besides the evil which results to herself from this, the child is deprived of her care at the very period when it needs it most. We have kept a register of the deaths of infants within the first year of their birth, where the mothers work in the different departments of our establishment; and we have found, that out of 199 births in two years, out of which 123 were legitimate and 76 illegitimate, there died 33 of the former in the first year, or 26 per cent., and 35 of the latter, or 46 per cent., an average of both classes of 80 per cent., or more than one infant in three; whilst there died but one in 8 or 10 in the families of the wealthy.

“To remedy so great a mortality, it appeared to us the best and easiest means was so to arrange that the mother might remain near her infant during the time when her cares were the more necessary, and to pay her her wages after her confinement, on condition that she did not leave her infant. We have done this for more than six months, and the success obtained exceeds all our expectations. It is so great, that although our experience may be said to be yet incomplete, I have been unwilling to delay communicating it.

“We pay to a worker her entire wages during the six weeks which follow the fortnight after her confinement; and, besides the physician attached to the establishment charged to attend on the sick, a midwife makes her visits daily during the same time. She attends especially to everything which contributes to the welfare of her foster children as it were. This has had an excellent effect.

"Of 63 infants born between the 1st of November last and the 1st of May 1863, of which 38 were legitimate and 25 illegitimate, there died but six, of which two were legitimate and four illegitimate, two others being still-born. On the 1st of May these infants had attained an average age of three months. Generally speaking, the mortality is very much less after the first months. For example. Out of 123,795 births during the last two years in the seven towns already cited, independently of the still born, there died 16,740 infants before the age of six months, or 14 per cent., and only 5,175 or 4.2 per cent. of from six months to a year: not a third as many after the first six months. In calculating, then, that to arrive at the age of one year, there should be a mortality less considerable than for the three first months, we should, in fact, have nine deaths for 63 births, or 15 per cent., whilst by the preceding statement they amount to 36 per cent., being a difference of 21 per cent. The deaths have been 35 per cent. in the Commune of Mullhouse in 1861 and 1862. In admitting that amongst 1,800 or 1,900 births at Mullhouse we have had 600 amongst women who work in factories, and perhaps even more than that, we prove also that we have saved 120 children that would otherwise have died, simply because the wages of the mothers do not suffice to give to their infants sufficient of the care which nature requires.

"Now, as to the expense attendant on our plan.

The average wages during these six weeks is about 50 francs per person.

Or for 63 persons	-	-	-	-	3,150 francs.
For the midwife	-	-	-	-	300 "
For petty expenses, such as child-bed linen, &c.	-	-	-	-	220 "
					<hr/>
For six months	-	-	-	-	3,670 "
Per annum	-	-	-	-	7,340 "

"And as with this expense we appear to have saved the lives of 26 infants who would otherwise have died, or 21 per cent. on 126, at the rate of 283 francs each, we think that no person would hesitate to make this sacrifice with such results as I have submitted to you.

"My house employs 2,500 workpeople, of which 1,150 are women. The annual subscription per worker is about three francs, or only one centime per working day. If we threw all the expense on the females employed, it would amount to 6 francs 40 cents. for each, per year, or a little more than two centimes per day.

"I might have been more exact had I chosen to wait for six months longer, but I did not wish to withhold a result so favourable. Henceforth I shall inform you of these results every three months, until we can completely appreciate the advantages of the experience which I have given you."

This communication was followed by a second, dated the 29th July 1863, to the following effect:—

"M. J. Dollfus has directed me in his absence to inform the Société Industrielle of the results which we have obtained in

affording succour to the lying-in women of our establishment. After nine months, during which our system has been in operation, there have been recorded 88 confinements. Of these, five of the children were still born. Out of the 83 remaining we had had on the 29th July only 14 deaths. Assuming that the births in the last three months would have been equal to the mean number of births of other months, and that the number of deaths followed in the same order, we should have registered 111 births and 19 deaths. This would have been equal to 17 per cent. of deaths for the first year. Now during the three last years we have found in our establishment that out of 100 children born in 12 months, there were 31·7 deaths registered within the same period. We have then made a perceptible beneficial progress; and whether it is premature or not to draw any precise conclusions from experiments of such a short standing, the first results clearly show that there is already a considerable amelioration. I must add, however, that, though we attribute our success in the first place, to the rest which the mothers obtain in their own homes during the first weeks following their confinement, it is also due in a great measure to the zeal and attention of a special midwife, whose sole occupation is the care of our work-people.

“M. Dollfus hopes that these results will induce other firms to follow his example.

“Our latest experience confirms the singular difference between the number of deaths among legitimate and illegitimate children. Thus in these nine months, when there were 83 births, 33 illegitimate and 55 legitimate, the proportion of deaths was 21·2 per cent. among the former and only 12·7 among the latter. For the last three years the proportions were as follows:

“Of 100 illegitimate births there died 41 per cent. in the first year.

“Of 100 legitimate births there died 25·5 per cent. in the first year.

“It is certain that by the efforts which might be made in the way of facilitating marriages, so frequently attended with difficulty, especially between our own workpeople and others who may be strangers, together with the long and expensive ceremonies attendant on it, much good might be effected in decreasing this mortality also. We are quite sure that in many cases very small pecuniary sacrifices might suffice to obtain excellent results in this way. I send with this a copy of the rules relating to the assistance given in our establishment to women during their confinementst.

“1st. That from the 1st of November 1862 there shall be given to all the women who work in the establishment of M. M. Dollfus, Mieg, & Co., relief in money at the time of their confinement upon the following conditions:

“2d. To have a right to this assistance, it will be necessary that the intended recipient has worked for one year without interruption in the establishment.

- "3d. That the sum which will be paid daily as assistance, will be equivalent to the moderate daily wages of the six months preceding the day when the woman ceased to work.
- "4th. That the woman shall receive this help during six weeks from the fifteenth day following her confinement.
- "5th. In case of the child's death, this help will cease to be given to the mother from the day of the death.
- "6th. The doctor belonging to the establishment will be instructed after having assisted the patient, to deliver every fortnight a certificate of her state, after which the payments will be made up to the ordinary pay day.
- "7th. According to the laws of the association for help in case of sickness, every woman has a right to the ordinary assistance from the treasury if she is attacked by illness after the 30th day of her confinement, but under such circumstances the assistance afforded her under article three, will cease after the 30th day.
- "8th. Every workwoman receiving this assistance must cease from all work during the time that it is given to her, so as to be able to devote every necessary care to her infant. If this is not complied with, no assistance will be afforded to her beyond the day when this order ceases to be attended to.
- "9th. MM. Dollfus & Co. appoint a person to visit the lying-in women frequently, who is able to assist them by good advice."

Now, I confess, although I have had reason to believe for a long period that many infants in this country were put to nurse whilst the mothers were at work, and also in the practice of children being drugged with a view to quieting the appetite, as well as of carrying them conveniently over the period of the mother's absence, and its ending in convulsions and death, I was not prepared to find so much serious mischief traceable to the want of maternal care as M. J. Dollfus has shown; and it is not very surprising that amongst the causes which tend to swell the aggregate mortality of a population, this should have been in some measure overlooked. Mullhouse contains a large cotton spinning population, and it appears that in 1861, 39 per cent. or 4 children out of every 10 born, died before they were a year old, the rate of infantile deaths being considerably higher than in the cotton districts which come under my notice; whilst in Paris, which contains a population variously employed, the rate was only 16 per cent., being about as low as Hertfordshire in England.

M. Dollfus accounts for the different ratio of deaths between Mullhouse and Roubaix and Amiens by the circumstance, that Mullhouse contains about 60,000 inhabitants, of which about 30,000 are of the working classes, in large

establishments full of machinery turned by power; whilst in Roubaix and Amiens much manufacture is still done by hand; and also that Mullhouse being a frontier town, contains many German and Swiss families, between whom and the indigenous workpeople the difficulties of inter-marriages lie, in consequence of their inability to obtain the necessary papers, and hence so much illegitimacy also. He also adduces, as another reason for it, that the factory hours of France are 72 per week, whilst in England they are only 60. He is kind enough to add what it is extremely interesting to know, "It is a year ago from the first of last November that we began our system of payment to lying-in women. Well, out of 1,100 females above 17 years old, there have been 120 births to November 1, 1863. Out of this number, 20 children are dead, leaving out the still born. These 20 children were six months old on an average the first of November last; and in the last six months of the first year of birth there only died one-fourth of the number that died during the first six months. We have thus 20 to 21 per cent. of deaths instead of 36."

He further gives the average of deaths in the first year of birth at Roubaix, Amiens, Dijon, Colmar, and Mullhouse as between 18 and 19 per cent., which is, as nearly as possible, the average per centage of similar deaths in our own specific and agricultural districts combined, namely, about 19·5.

One of the most remarkable comparisons in the whole of M. J. Dollfus's communication, and in support of the theory of infantile deaths from want of the necessary care of the mother during the first few weeks after birth, is that which is made between the deaths of the infants amongst his own workpeople and those of the wealthy in Mullhouse; the former exhibiting a loss of one infant in three, the latter only one in eight or ten. The general result of these enquiries is that where there is this want of maternal care the ratio of infantile deaths is greatly increased, and that as soon as that cause ceases to operate, this rate of mortality decreases. In this way he accounts for the decrease of mortality in the seven towns to which he refers, and in which out of 123,795 births in two years there died 14 per cent. before the age of six months, and only 4·2 per cent. at from six months to a year." This, however, appears to be a general law, variable only in degree.

The insufficiency of the wages of the mother to enable her to provide for the sustenance of her infant (and of course the greater this insufficiency when the mother is unmarried and has not the joint wages of a husband to assist her, the greater the number of deaths, as is shewn from the greater ratio of deaths among illegitimate children,) is apparently, from the reasoning of M. Dollfus, a primary cause of the excessive

infant mortality among the children of workers in factories; and in this way it is possible to account for the increased ratio of deaths in Mullhouse over the English rate, that of female wages in our cotton factories being about 10s. 3d. per person per week, whilst of Mullhouse it is only 6s. 11d.; which forms an essential difference in the means of sustentation, even though the living in France is cheaper, and the habits of the workers more frugal.

Of the humane and admirable system devised by M. Dollfus for the prevention of infantile deaths in their establishments, one can scarcely speak in terms of sufficient praise and congratulation; nor of the general care and supervision which they consider it to be their duty to take over their workpeople. It can only be wished, as M. Dollfus expresses himself, that for the sake of humanity, other firms would copy his example. There is room enough and reason enough for their doing so. The same preventive ideas have crossed the thoughts of charitable persons in this country before now. It is only a few years ago since an attempt was made to establish an institution in Coventry for the purpose of taking care of the infants of mothers who worked in the factories of that city; but it fell through, as I have been informed, not from the non-necessity for it, but from two causes; firstly, owing to the distance of the nursery from the home of the mother, or from the workshop; and, secondly, owing to the expense attendant on the nursing of such children, for which the mothers had to pay, and which was considerably more per week than what they would have had to give to some neighbour for a similar service.

We may further observe in M. J. Dollfus and Co.'s establishment that there is a benefit sick society, attended by a physician who is the appointee of the proprietors, in addition to the services of a midwife, when occasion may require them; and that the firm supplements the ordinary wages of the lying-in women during their confinements.

All these are great and important benefits to be attached to any establishment. Upon many of our railways, and in many large ironworks in this country, somewhat similar institutions are maintained. Why they should not be equally introduced into factories one can scarcely well imagine.

We shall probably regard with some astonishment the number of illegitimate births in the cotton factories at Mullhouse. We have not been called upon in this country to notice this incident on so large a scale. There are some such births amongst the female factory workers of this country, no doubt; but whether there are so many as those of which M. Dollfus speaks, I am not able to say. The Registrar-General, in his report for 1843, tells us, that out of 248,554 births of children registered 15,839 were illegitimate; so that 1 in 16 of the children born in England is not born in wedlock, or 64 in

1,000; the proportion in France being 71 in 1,000. It appears to be, in M. J. Dollfus's opinion that this exaggerated rate is regarded as the result of difficulties which are placed in the way of marriages amongst the working classes, and particularly between indigenous residents and strangers; for he recommends such alterations either in the ceremonies or the law, as will enable such marriages to take place more readily. Whether such an alteration would have the effect which he anticipates is doubtful. In this country we are apt to look upon the very early marriages which take place among our factory populations with doubt if not with regret, and as productive of much social mischief; but M. Dollfus refers, perhaps, to marriages generally, and not to very early ones in particular.

In pursuing to some extent the same system of inquiry in England, I have been favoured by the Registrar-General with information as to the births and deaths of children under two years of age, registered in the years 1859, 1860, and 1861 in certain specific and agricultural districts, which singularly confirm the calculations of M. J. Dollfus, and render his communications still more valuable. For it appears, that whilst the rate of deaths to births in the specific districts in 1860 was 25 per cent., in 1861 it was 28·2 per cent.; whilst in the agricultural districts it was only 17·1 per cent. in 1860, and 17·4 per cent. in 1861. Further, the centesimal proportion of deaths to births under one year old in 1860, in specific and agricultural populations combined, agrees with that of the seven towns of France collectively to which M. J. Dollfus has referred, namely 19·5 per cent. I have taken 1860 as the year in which every spindle was at work in the cotton districts, and therefore at a time when if anything could be chargeable to maternal absence from home and consequent want of care of their infants, it would be noticeable. The individual proportions generally show how much higher the rate of infantile deaths is in the manufacturing districts than in the agricultural.

The proportion of married women and widows in factories generally is as follows. In the Irish factories 13·6 per cent. of the females employed, who are over 16 years of age. In several of the English factories I have found it more than double that, but I have scarcely sufficient data on which to found a general average. It is not, however, larger than could readily be replaced with men, if not by the husbands of the women who might have thus to be excluded.

I have alluded before to the early marriages of factory girls; and, without wishing to be censorious, no doubt the large wages which these girls of 17 or 18 years of age receive, make them to be thought desirable as wives by young men who have no very great desire to work hard themselves. In the cotton districts of this country there were, in 1860, 399,992 power looms; and as the rate of wages for minding

The whole question is one for serious consideration, and in what way this sacrifice of infant life occasioned by congregational labour can be best averted. If the occupiers of large works could be induced not to employ mothers, especially with young families, that would be one of the readiest ways. They tell me they will be able to afford a high rate of wages when times are brisk; let them then employ husbands in the place of wives, and let the future race of workers in these districts be brought up as all young animals are brought up in the early periods of life, with a sustentation which shall preserve and increase their vigour, and with a tenderness and care which is absolutely requisite for infants, especially in the first weeks of their growth.

The education of factory children in Ireland has for some time past been engaging my attention, but I have only lately seen my way to attempt to deal with and to alter it. I speak principally of the employment and education of the short time children in and around Belfast. On a very recent tour of inspection, I visited several schools in which such children were educated, and I must confess that I was quite sorry to think of the way in which labour, with education (sometimes so called) was carried on.

I will explain to you what the ordinary hours of work in the factories are, and then exhibit a copy of a school certificate, so that the system may be seen as it is pursued, exactly.

The hours of work commence at 6 A.M. and end at 6 P.M., except Saturday. The breakfast time is usually from 8 to 8 45: the dinner time from 1 to 1 45, which together make up the hour and a half required by law, and the one hour before 3 o'clock P.M. Where short time children are employed, there are two sets of them working during the day, which are alternated every fortnight, but it is to the morning set only to which my observations refer. These, living, some of them, may be close to, but many of them a few hundred yards away from the mill, must rise during all states of the weather, both winter and summer, at 5 45 A.M. at the latest, to be at the mill and at work by 6. They then work from 6 o'clock to breakfast time, go home to breakfast, return at 8 45 and work till 12 in a moist and heated atmosphere, with the thermometer often at 84° Fahrenheit, and with the spindles revolving at the rate of 4 to 5,000 times a minute. At 12 they are permitted to leave the mill, go home, "take a piece," *i.e.* a morsel of treacle and bread, or dry bread in their hands, eating it as they go, and hurry to school, where they remain till 3 and then go home to dinner, *i.e.* to potatoes and buttermilk when they can get it, often prepared for them by a child younger than themselves, because the mother is working in the factory, or dry bread again; the day

ending with another meal on thin coffee or red herring as their circumstances will permit. The following is a copy of the school certificate :

FACTORY ACT.—7 Vict. Cap. 15.

SCHOOL CERTIFICATE.—I hereby certify, that the under-mentioned children employed in the factory of _____ situated in _____ for the number of hours and at the time on each day specified in the columns opposite to their names, during the week ending on Saturday the 21st day of November one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and that the causes of absence stated are true, to the best of my belief.

Name of Child.	Monday.		Tuesday.		Wednesday.		Thursday.		Friday.		Causes of Absence.
	* Time.		* Time.		* Time.		* Time.		* Time.		
	From	To	From	To	From	To	From	To	From	To	
Sarah M'Cabe -	12½	3	12½	3	12½	3	12½	3	12½	3	Leave
Thomas Ward -	12½	3	12½	3	12½	3	12½	3	12½	3	
Jane M'Canley -	12½	3	12½	3	12½	3	12½	3	12½	3	
Walter Boal - -	12½	3	12½	3	12½	3	12½	3	12½	3	
Catherine Thompson	12½	3	12½	3	12½	3	12½	3	A.	A.	
Martha Peelin -	12½	3	12½	3	12½	3	12½	3	12½	3	
Mary J. Carroll -	12½	3	12½	3	12½	3	12½	3	12½	3	
Mary M'Kinstry -	12½	3	12½	3	12½	3	12½	3	12½	3	Without leave.
Wm. Pedlow - -	12½	3	A.	A.	12½	3	12½	3	12½	3	
Hannah Barr -	A.	A.	12½	3	12½	3	12½	3	12½	3	
Mary J. Harland -	12½	3	12½	3	12½	3	12½	3	12½	3	

* When the schooling begins or ends at a half-hour, the half-hour will be most conveniently inserted in figures, thus—8½—11½, or 1½—4½, in the time columns.

(Signed)

Schoolmaster

the 21st day of November 1863.

Enter the names of the children who attend the forenoon school, and those who attend the afternoon school, SEPARATELY.

and in it, are the names of eleven children, eight of which are girls of different ages from eight to not quite thirteen years, and who may thus be said to be worked and schooled together for nine consecutive hours, less two intervals of an hour and a quarter, without substantial food, and that from day to day.

I no longer wonder now that during my connexion with factory life I have had to give to Irish children a year's want of development, to bring them up to the standard of English children as factory workers.

Yet the law is not at fault for this overt state of things, unless in its failure to dictate an hour specifically for the dinner time. The error lies more in the peculiar habits of the people; and to be corrected, must be approached with

the utmost delicacy. For the same hours of schooling, i.e. from 9 AM to 3 PM., with a short interval at noon for a piece, obtain in the model and other schools in Belfast, and are said to be preferred by both schoolmasters and the parents of the scholars. Thus these poor factory children suffer; for it must be remembered that the scholars in other schools do not rise summer and winter as early as factory children, are of better to do parentage, and are consequently better provided for in the way of sustentation: nor do they work in humid and heated atmospheres which are often changed in a moment for the most opposite temperatures.

About the physical and social mischief arising to the factory children from this system of schooling I have not met with a difference of opinion, and the only question is as to the remedy: for there has long been an unwillingness amongst the manufacturers of Belfast to employ short time children, mainly on account of the trouble which this system of schooling has occasioned; and it is probable that there might even be found a greater unwillingness amongst the work people to have it altered. Still I think it might be done if the mill owners themselves would fix an hour in the middle of the day for dinner, and would unite to establish schools where the school hours should be in the morning from 9 till 12 and in the afternoon from 2 till 5 in the summer, and from 2 to 4½ in the winter. And if so, I was assured that the National Board of Education would afford to such schools equal assistance with that which it gives to any other class of schools. By such a union all the trouble, inconvenience, and disadvantages of the present system would be removed, and short time children would, I believe, be employed in greater numbers than they now are. In fact, there will be shortly a necessity for the employment of such children, in order to replace the older hands which have emigrated and will continue to emigrate to England and elsewhere; and as a matter of self-defence it would be a wise policy on the part of the manufacturers to adopt it at once. I spoke with several of them on this subject. Generally, they expressed a readiness to consider it, and what they could attempt in the way of a union of mills in certain districts, so that a sufficient number of children might be brought together, to make it worth the while of teachers to attend to them. Mr. William Ewart informed me that he had long had it in contemplation to build a good school in union with two neighbours of his, Messrs. Johnson and Carlisle, and Messrs. Mitchell Brothers, and that they were only waiting for the selection of a piece of land, to begin at once. I also saw Mr. Johnson, who expressed an equal if not a greater readiness than Mr. Ewart; and who in fact went further, and said that if Mr. Ewart did not join him very shortly he and his partner would build the

school of their own accord. But Mr. Wm. Ewart's idea of what he should like to do, went beyond a school, and my most sanguine anticipation. He should be glad, he said, to see an institution established in the shape of a poor man's club, where wholesome and convenient food could be provided for the workpeople of the three mills at a prime cost price, so that he might know they had it, and be assured of its quality; and that he would have in connexion with such club a reading room and other accommodation for intellectual purposes (which I found indeed already commenced at Messrs. Johnson and Carlisle's), and perhaps a co-operative society also. I have not heard from Mr. W. Ewart since, but I hope that by this time he may have carried out his humane and wise policy, and that more of the Belfast mill occupiers may have followed his example.

I have obtained an elaborate schedule of the average rate of wages in the textile fabrics of the counties of the United Kingdom, which is exceedingly interesting and will be found, I think, of importance. I have, however, not been able to bring it under your notice on the present occasion, but must reserve it for a future report. The following grants have been made from the Factory Fine Fund, of my district, with your sanction, to schools in which factory children are educated:—

	£
To the Wesleyan School, Leigh -	- 15
To the Emmanuel National School, Bolton -	- 20
To the National School, Plansantffraid -	- 10
To the British School, Bolton - -	- 12

The following gentlemen have also been appointed certifying surgeons within my district:—

FOR ENGLAND.

J. W. HULME, Esq., M.D., Wigston, Leicestershire.
 GEORGE PIERCE, Esq., M.D., Market Harborough.
 WM. C. NUTT, Esq., Poole, Dorsetshire.
 WM. ALLARD, Esq., Tewkesbury.

FOR IRELAND.

ROBERT JOHNSON, Esq., Castle Dawson.

I have the honour to be,
 Sir,

Your most obedient servant,
 ROBERT BAKER.

*To the Right Hon.
 the Secretary of State
 for the Home Department.
 &c. &c. &c.*

APPENDIX No. 1.

RETURN of PROSECUTIONS for OFFENCES against the FACTORIES REGULATION ACTS, in the DISTRICT of ROBERT BAKER, Esq., during the Six Months ended 31st October 1863.

Date.	Names and Addresses of Persons summoned.	Names of the Magistrates who heard the Case, and Place of Hearing.	Nature of the Offence.	Amount of Penalty.	Amount of Costs.	REMARKS.
1863. May 7	Horatio Collier, Witney	Walter Strickland, and Leonard Pickering, Esqs., Magistrate's Office, Witney.	<i>Informations laid by Mr. Hickes.</i> Employing a young person without entering her name in the register.	£ 2 0 0	£ s. d. 0 14 4	An attempt was made to conceal these young persons from the Sub-Inspector.
"	"	"	Employing a young person without entering her name in the register.	2 0 0	0 14 0	
July 31	Chas. H. Howard, Slad Mill, near Stroud.	R. Winterbotham, Wyatt, S. S. Dickinson, Wm. Capel, and Jos. Watts Hallewell, Esqs., Town Hall, Stroud.	Not securely fencing a water wheel	5 0 0	0 10 3	A boy lost his life in consequence of this wheel not having been securely fenced.
"	Clegg, Rostron, and Son, Edenfield near Bury.	Bury, before Lt.-Col. Hutchinson and Capt. Walker.	<i>Informations laid by Mr. Jones.</i> Employing five young persons after 6 o'clock in the evening.	3 0 0	1 9 6	Two cases withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	Robert Emmett, Edenfield	"	Employing two young persons after 6 o'clock p.m.	1 0 0	1 1 6	One case withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	Boothman and Fielding, Edenfield.	"	Employing two young persons after 6 o'clock in the evening.	2 0 0	1 3 6	"
Aug. 7	Daniel Duckworth, Edenfield, near Bury.	Bury, before Capt. O. Walker and R. N. Phillips, Esq.	Employing twenty young persons after 6 o'clock in the evening.	5 0 0	15 1 6	Fifteen cases withdrawn on payment of costs.
" 10	Seed and Seddon, Breightmet, near Bolton.	Bolton, before Peter Ainsworth, and Chas. J. Darbshire, Esqs.	Employing fifty women and young persons after 6 o'clock p.m.	20 0 0	18 12 0	Thirty cases withdrawn on payment of costs.

LIST OF PROSECUTIONS—continued.

Date.	Names and Addresses of Persons summoned.	Names of the Magistrates who heard the Case, and Place of Hearing.	Nature of the Offence.	Amount of Penalty.	Amount of Costs.	REMARKS.
1863. Nov. 23	Cook and Bardsley, Horwood, near Bolton.	Bolton, before Revd. J. S. Birley, W. T. Hutton, and Alfred Barnes, Esqs.	<i>Informations laid by Mr. Haydon</i> —continued. Neglecting to securely fence an upright shaft whereby a female suffered a bodily injury.	£ s. d. 20 0 0	£ s. d. 10 0 0	
Sept. 11	Hugh M. Beck and Co., Flax Spinners, Belfast.	Edward Orme, R.M., and W. T. B. Lyons, Esqs., Belfast Petty Sessions.	<i>Information laid by Mr. Darkin.</i> Employing eleven females after 2 o'clock on Saturday.	22 0 0	1 18 6	
"	Glenfield and Faren, Flax Spinners, Belfast.	" "	Employing four females and two young persons after 2 o'clock on Saturday.	4 0 0	0 14 0	Two cases withdrawn.
July 2	J. Lees Buckley, Wood Carder, Wood Mill, Bredbury near Stockport.	John Wright, Esq., Charles Andrews, Esq., Stockport Petty Sessions.	<i>Informations laid by Mr. Steen.</i> Employing a young person without having name and date of first employment registered.	2 0 0	-	Including costs.
" 8	John Kershaw, Cotton Manufacturer, Portwood, Stockport.	Wm. Rayner, Esq., M.D., Wm. Williamson, Esq., Stockport Petty Sessions.	Employing a young person under sixteen years of age without a surgical certificate.	2 0 0	0 15 7	
Aug. 3	Thos. Howarth and Co., Cotton Manufacturers, Warrington.	James Hephherd, Esq., Mayor, Thomas G. Rylands, Esq., Charles H. Cartwright, Esq.	Employing three young persons and females during meal time.	3 0 0	3 6 6	
"	"	" "	Employing three young persons and females during meal time.	-	-	Withdrawn on payment of costs.
Feb. 9	William Taylor, Mansfield Street, Leicester.	George Toller, Mayor, James Hudson and James Viccars, Esqs.	<i>Informations laid by Mr. Haydon</i> Not keeping a register of young persons according to the forms and directions given in Schedule B. 7 Victoria, chap. 15.	-	-	Dismissed; case to be laid before the Court of Queen's Bench.

Feb. 9	John Pretty Clarke, King Street, Leicester.	George Toller, Mayor, James Hudson, and James Viccars, Esqs.	Not keeping a register of young persons according to the forms and directions given in Schedule B. to 7 Victoria, chap. 15.	2	0	0	0	8	0	
Feb. 16	John Thomas Raworth, Charles Street, Leicester.	George Toller, Mayor, Samuel Viccars, and Joseph Underwood, Esqs.	Not keeping a register of young persons according to the forms and directions given in Schedule B. to 7 Victoria, chap. 15.	2	0	0	0	9	0	
Feb. 20	William Ward, Yeoman Lane, Leicester.	George Toller, Mayor, and Richard Harris, Esqs.	Employing a female above the age of eighteen years after 7 p.m.	3	0	0	0	9	0	} Thirteen summonses for similar offences were withdrawn.
"	"	"	Employing a female above the age of eighteen years after 7 p.m.	2	0	0	0	9	0	
Feb. 20	William Mowbray, Archdeacon Lane, Leicester.	George Toller, Mayor, and Richard Harris, Esqs.	Neglecting to send a written notice to the office of the Factory Inspectors, within one month after beginning to occupy his factory.	2	0	0	0	9	0	} A summons against Mowbray for neglecting to keep a register was withdrawn. One summons withdrawn.
Feb. 23	Ezra Smith and Israel Smith, Friars Causeway, Leicester.	George Toller, Mayor, Samuel Viccars, Joseph Cripps, and James Hudson, Esqs.	Employing a young person under eighteen years of age later than 7 p.m.	2	0	0	0	12	6	
"	Charles Fletcher, Station Yard, Leicester.	"	Employing a young person under the age of sixteen years without a surgical certificate.	1	0	0	0	10	6	
"	"	"	Employing a young person under the age of sixteen years after 6 p.m. without giving such notice as is required by law.	2	0	0	0	10	6	
"	James Smith, Sarah Street, Leicester.	"	Employing a female above the age of eighteen years later than 7 p.m.	2	0	0	0	10	6	Three summonses withdrawn.
Mar. 6	Charles Fletcher, Station Yard, Leicester.	George Toller, Mayor, Joseph Underwood, William Miles, and Joseph Cripps, Esqs.	Employing a young person under eighteen years of age without registering his name in the register of young persons employed in his factory.	2	0	0	0	11	6	
"	"	"	Employing a young person under eighteen years after 6 p.m. without giving notice.	2	0	0	0	10	0	
"	"	"	Employing a young person under sixteen without surgical certificate.	-	-	-	-	-	-	Dismissed.
"	"	"	Employing a young person under eighteen without properly registering his name.	-	-	-	-	-	-	"
"	"	"	Employing a young person under eighteen without properly registering his name.	2	0	0	0	10	6	
"	"	"	Employing a young person under eighteen without properly registering his name.	-	-	-	-	-	-	"
June 15	Messrs. Oram and Hall, Leicester.	The Mayor, S. Viccars, Esq., Town Hall, Leicester.	For employing 5 young persons after 2 p.m. on Saturday.	6	0	0	1	14	0	Two cases dismissed.

LIST OF PROSECUTIONS—continued.

Date.	Names and Addresses of Persons summoned.	Names of the Magistrates who heard the Case, & Place of Hearing.	Nature of Offence.	Amount of Penalty.	Amount of Costs.	REMARKS.
June 19	John Webster, Leicester.	The Mayor, W. Miles, Esq., Town Hall, Leicester.	<i>Informations laid by Mr. Haydon</i> —continued. For making a false entry in the register of young persons.	£ s. d. - - 6	£ s. d. 0 7 6	Withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	Jas. Smith	The Mayor, W. Miles, Esq., Town Hall, Leicester.	For employing 4 females and young persons after 6 p.m.	5 0 0	0 18 0 0 15 0	Two cases withdrawn on payment of costs.
May 9	James Moore, Farleigh Mills, near Bradford-on-Avon.	Colonel Blathwaite, Colonel Grant, Captain Murchinson, and Jerome Murch, Esq., Weston Court House near Bath.	<i>Informations laid by Mr. Buller.</i> Employing two females after 6 p.m.	1 0 0	0 14 0	One case withdrawn on payment of costs.
May 14	James Hill, Broadway, Frome.	Thomas S. Harrison, Esq., M.D., E. H. Dickenson, Esq., Police Court, Frome.	Employing two females after 2 p.m. on Saturday	1 0 0	0 17 10	"
June 3	James W. Gabriel, Yerbury Street, Trowbridge.	W. Stancomb, J. P. Stancomb, J. H. Webb, Esqs., and Major Thomas Clark, Police Office, Trowbridge.	Employing a female and four young persons after 6 p.m.	1 0 0	2 0 6	Four cases withdrawn on payment of costs.
Aug. 31	Abraham Hopkins, Waterloo Street, Swansea.	Dr. Howell, E. M. Richards, and G. G. Frances, Esqs., Police Office, Swansea.	Employing a child without a surgical certificate	-	0 8 11	Withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	"	"	Employing the same child without a certificate of school attendance.	-	0 8 11	,
May 27	Walk Mill Company, Colne.	W. H. Wood, and Edwd. Parker, Esqs., Colne.	<i>Informations laid by Mr. May.</i> Employing ten females and young persons during the dinner hour.	10 0 0	6 5 0	

June 1	Henry Knowles, and Sons, Burnley.	T. H. Whittaker and Jno. Heelis, Esqs., Burnley.	Employing a child without a surgical certificate -	2	0	0	} 1 9 6	The two latter cases were withdrawn on payment of costs, by special desire of the bench.
"	"	"	Employing a child without a school certificate -	-	-	-		
"	"	"	Employing a child before noon and after 1 o'clock p.m. on the same day.	-	-	-		
"	Wm. Hopwood and Sons, Burnley.	"	Employing eight females after 2 p.m. on Saturday	6	0	0	4 2	Two cases dismissed, the witnesses denying employment.
June 1	Robert Tattersall, Burnley,	T. H. Whittaker and Jno. Heelis, Esqs., Burnley.	Obstructing Sub-Inspector in the performance of his duty by endeavouring to prevent the examination of a child.	-	-	-	-	Dismissed; the child contradicting in evidence the statement made by him at the factory.
June 24	J. and J. Walton, Nelson near Burnley.	W. H. Wood, and Edwd. Parker, Esqs., Colne.	Making a false entry in the register of young persons.	5	0	0	} 1 19 6	Dismissed.
"	"	"	Deducting from the wages of a young person, a sum exceeding threepence on account of the fee for a surgical certificate.	2	0	0		
"	"	"	Deducting from the wages of two young persons sums exceeding threepence on account of fees for surgical certificate.	-	-	-		
Sept. 7	C. G. Hodgeson, Marsden, near Burnley.	T. H. Whittaker, and Jno. Heelis, Esqs., Burnley.	Employing two young persons without registering their names.	2	0	0	1 4 6	One case withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	John Brennand, Wakehead, near Burnley.	"	Employing a child without a school certificate -	1	0	0	} 1 1 6	Withdrawn on payment of costs.
"	"	"	Employing a child before noon and after 1 o'clock p.m. on the same day.	-	-	-		

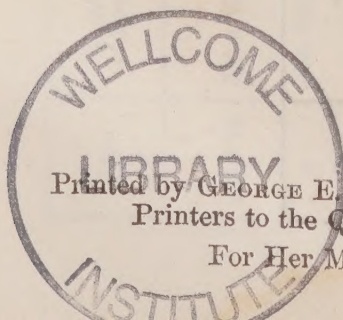
APPENDIX No. 2.

TABLE No. I.—*Accidents arising from Machinery.*

Nature of Injury.	Adults.		Young Persons.		Children.		Total.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.&F.
Causing death - - -	1	2	3	-	1	-	5	2	7
Amputation of right hand or arm	3	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3
Amputation of left hand or arm	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Amputation of part of right hand	5	2	9	8	3	4	17	14	31
Amputation of part of left hand	2	7	7	8	-	2	9	17	26
Fracture of limbs and bones of trunk - - - - }	6	1	3	5	-	-	9	6	15
Fracture of hand or foot - -	5	4	7	6	3	2	15	12	27
Injuries to head and face -	2	8	7	5	2	1	11	14	25
Lacerations, contusions, and other injuries not enumerated above - - - - }	63	41	75	74	8	5	146	120	266
Total - - -	88	65	111	106	17	14	216	185	401

TABLE No. II.—*Accidents not arising from Machinery.*

Nature of Injury.	Adults.		Young Persons.		Children.		Total.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.&F.
Fracture of limbs and bones of trunk - - - - }	4	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	4
Injuries to head and face -	-	1	1	-	2	-	3	1	4
Lacerations, contusions, and other injuries not enumerated above - - - }	5	-	3	-	2	1	10	1	11
Total - - -	9	1	4	-	4	1	17	2	19



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OF THE

INSPECTORS OF FACTORIES

TO

Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State
for the Home Department,

FOR THE

HALF YEAR ENDING 31st OCTOBER 1863.

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